

## AR TARGET SHEET

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TITLE: Comments on Tentative Agreement  
Regarding the FFTF TPA  
Milestones – Appendix B  
Volume 5 of 5

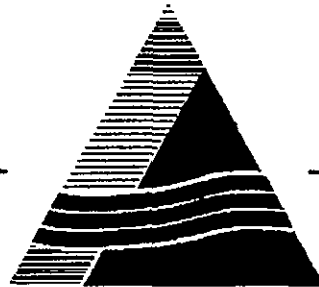
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SECTION: 5 of 5

51685  
5 of 5

**APPENDIX B**  
**VOLUME 5 OF 5**

**COMMENTS ON THE TENTATIVE  
AGREEMENT REGARDING  
THE FAST FLUX TEST FACILITY  
TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT  
MILESTONES**



Tri-Party Agreement

**U.S. Department of Energy  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington State Department of Ecology**

**April 1998**

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT PUBLIC MEETING FOR FFTF  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
JANUARY 14, 1998

Panel Members:

Mary Lou Blazek - Oregon State Department of Energy  
Kate Brown - Oregon Senator  
Tom Carpenter - Government Accountability Project  
Elizabeth Furse - Oregon Congresswoman  
Ernie Hughes - U.S. Department of Energy  
Paige Knight - Hanford Watch  
Gerald Pollet - Heart of America Northwest  
Pat Serie - Moderator  
Frank Shields - Oregon Representative  
Roger Stanley - Washington State Department of Ecology  
Mike Wilson - Washington State Department of Ecology  
Jon Yerxa - U.S. Department of Energy

Pat Serie:

You know that there are strong feelings about whether or not FFTF should ultimately be restarted, and I would ask you to remember that what the agencies have to walk away with tonight is feedback on whether or not to change the TPA milestones. So please be sure that you give me comments on that question.

There are agendas out in front. We structured the meeting to provide the bulk of the time to hear from the people who are here, and so what we're going to do is have a brief description of the status of the FFTF standby process and background on the proposed changes to the Tri-Party Agreement. We will hear from the Oregon Office of Energy on their perspective and we will have several alternative viewpoints on the milestone changes from Oregon officials and interest groups. Then we'll take just a brief time to allow questions and answers. I want to be sure that if something was not clear, that you can get a clarification from the speakers; however, we want to move quickly to the public comment period, which is our primary goal tonight. We will not be asking the agencies to respond to comments. In fact, they will be hearing and absorbing the input. This session is being recorded and there will be written comments provided to all of the questions and the comments after the meeting. So by 7:45, at least, we're going to be starting the public comment period.

I just got the third page of people who are signed up to speak and so we're going to ask that people representing organizations speak for no more than five minutes and individuals for about three, so we can get everyone fit in. That's five minutes for organizations and three for individuals. We are scheduled to end at 9:30. The agencies are happy to stay as long as people are here and also to be available for one-on-one questions after the meeting.

1 If you want to speak, have not yet signed up, or if you change your mind  
2 during the meeting, please see the people at the back table and let them know.  
3

4 I would ask that all of you respect the rights of the speakers and your  
5 neighbors to speak during the time that they've been allotted and hold any  
6 questions or comments until you have the floor. My job is to keep us on  
7 schedule and be sure everyone has the opportunity to go on record tonight, so  
8 I'll let you know when you need to move on to the next person.  
9

10 Let me introduce the people at the table tonight. First, with the Department  
11 of Ecology, which is the lead Tri-Party agency for the proposed changes, we  
12 have Roger Stanley. Department of Energy is represented by Ernie Hughes and  
13 Jon Yerxa. This is Mary Lou Blazek with the Oregon Office of Energy;  
14 Gerald Pollet with Heart of America Northwest; Paige Knight (Paige, I'm in  
15 trouble ... ) with Hanford Watch and we're expecting Congresswoman  
16 Elizabeth Furse shortly, as well as Mike Wilson with Ecology.  
17

18 If you do not have an agenda, we are about to move to the background  
19 presentations. Our first will be Ernie Hughes, talking about the situation  
20 with FFTF as it stands today.  
21

22 Ernie Hughes:

23 Thank you, Pat. Good evening everybody. I'm sorry that we don't have a  
24 viewgraph projector which would help, but they ... so we will have to do  
25 without it. In addition to my responsibilities as the Director of the Fast  
26 Flux Test Facility Project Office, I'm here tonight along with Jon Yerxa as  
27 the Department of Energy representative for the Tri-Party Agreement. I've  
28 also brought with me tonight some technical experts who will answer any  
29 detailed questions that you might have either during the session or after.  
30 There's a change in the status of FFTF and tonight we're here to explain that  
31 those changes through the Tri-Party Agreement that the milestones itself have  
32 not changed. The proposed milestone revision has not ... Is that a little  
33 better? OK, good. The proposed milestones revision is not, I repeat not, a  
34 decision to restart the facility. The proposed revision simply reflects that  
35 FFTF has gone from deactivation to standby status until it is decided if the  
36 facility is needed to support the nation's requirements for tritium. My  
37 remarks will be brief to allow maximum time for you to ask questions and  
38 provide comments on the proposed changes.  
39

40 For those of you who may not be familiar with FFTF, it is a 400-megawatt  
41 sodium-cooled reactor built in the 1970s, started in 1980, and operated to  
42 test liquid-metal reactor technology components and systems from the 1982 to  
43 1992. The reactor is located at the Hanford Site, four miles west of the  
44 Columbia River. The FFTF, unlike the production reactors, FFTF does not take  
45 water from the Columbia, nor does it discharge effluents to the Columbia, nor  
46 do we discharge any radioactive effluents to the ground, either surface or  
47 subsurface. FFTF is the largest, most modern reactor owned by the Department  
48 of Energy. Because of the extensive testing over the past 15 years, we know  
49 more about this reactor than probably any other reactor in the United States  
50 regarding its safety, fuel performance, and isotope production. Information



about the plant and its operating history has been widely documented and is publicly available.

In the early 1990s, there was no identified mission for FFTF. So in December 1993 the Department of Energy issued a formal shutdown order for the facility. The Tri-Party Agreement agencies then established a set of deactivation milestones, since the Department of Energy had decided that FFTF had no future mission. Staff at the FFTF moved forward with a deactivation program that safely defueled the reactor and placed many systems in a shutdown condition. We completed the sodium storage facility well in advance of the Tri-Party Agreement dates. In late 1995, a private company sent Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary an unsolicited proposal offering to take over the FFTF, produce tritium, and sell it back to the government. The revenue from this operation would be used to expand the capability to produce medical isotopes. Tritium is an essential component of our nation's nuclear weapons systems. One half of the tritium is lost to radioactive decay every 12.3 years. The United States last produced tritium in 1988. That source, the K Reactor at Savannah River, is no longer available.

The Russians have not ratified the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II agreement, which would have lowered the requirement for replacement tritium. Therefore in late 1995, U.S. Nuclear Weapons Council and the President determined that a new tritium source was needed by the year 2005. The Department of Energy is responsible for providing tritium to the Department of Defense and therefore, found itself caught in a dilemma. The need for tritium could change if the Russians ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II agreement. The need could also change if there are new negotiations. In addition, the two current tritium production options each have major issues. The accelerator option requires billions of dollars in funding out of a flat Department of Energy budget. The use of a commercial light water reactor for tritium production requires controversial Congressional legislation. Faced with this dilemma and a privatization proposal, the Secretary stopped the irreversible step of draining sodium from FFTF and commissioned independent reviews to look at the technical and economic feasibility of using the facility. Those reviews indicated that FFTF could safely and economically produce tritium on an interim basis.

In January 1997, the Secretary changed FFTF's status from deactivation to standby until the tritium production issue could be resolved. The Secretary of Energy said that while FFTF was in standby we would maintain essential systems, staffing, and support services, continue those deactivation activities that would not prevent restart, and conduct technical, economic, safety, and environmental analyses to help the Secretary decide on whether to proceed with the National Environmental Policy Act process, which is required before making any decision relative to the restart of FFTF.

Today the FFTF is in standby status. The reactor is completely defueled. Detailed technical and safety analyses have been completed. The reports on those analyses were issued December 1, and are publicly available. The next step in the decision process is for the Secretary of Energy to decide whether

2 to 1) initiate the National Environmental Policy Act process relative to  
3 FFTF's future, 2) simply continue in standby, or 3) return to a deactivation  
4 mode. Before any decision on the restart of FFTF, there would be an  
5 Environmental Impact Statement prepared, which would include full public  
6 involvement. The TPA milestones that are affected are the M-81 series, which  
7 refer to the deactivation, which are all contained and somewhat explained in  
8 the handouts that were at the table outside on the change; and the M-20  
9 series, which cover the formal closure of the environmental permits.

10 Recognizing the January 1997 change of facility status from deactivation to  
11 standby, the Tri-Party Agreement agencies agreed last spring to negotiate  
12 revised TPA milestones. The Hanford Advisory Board was briefed on the need  
13 for these changes in July of 1997. In October, the TPA agencies reached a  
14 tentative agreement to delete the existing milestones. The agencies also  
15 agreed that if the Secretary decides FFTF is to resume the shutdown process,  
16 new deactivation milestone dates (negotiations for those new dates) will be  
17 started within 90 days. The Department of Energy also has stated that it  
18 intends to establish and maintain the management and funding responsibility  
19 for the FFTF under the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology  
20 starting in fiscal year 1999 through shutdown.

21  
22 Finally, any environmental compliance issues relative to FFTF will be  
23 addressed through the Washington State Department of Ecology's Sitewide  
24 Compliance Assurance Program.

25  
26 In conclusion, the FFTF status has changed from deactivation to standby. The  
27 three agencies agree that the best way to manage the issue is the proposed  
28 agreement revising the milestones. Let me emphasize again: the proposed  
29 decision to revise the milestones is not a decision to restart the facility;  
30 any decision of that nature would occur only after the preparation of an EIS  
31 with full public involvement.

32  
33 We look forward to your questions and comments here tonight, either orally or  
34 by using the comment forms in the back. The three agencies will use the input  
35 that is focused directly on this change to revise and finalize the tentative  
36 agreement. We expect that some of your input may go beyond the specific focus  
37 of the TPA change request into the national policy issues of tritium need and  
38 future uses of Hanford. We will make sure that all of your comments are  
39 provided to the appropriate Department of Energy officials. In addition to  
40 your comments tonight, I encourage you to write to me directly or send  
41 electronic correspondence if you have any questions, opinions, concerns, or  
42 issues related to the FFTF. Thank you very much.

43  
44 Pat Serie:

45 If there's an empty chair next to anyone with an empty chair next to them,  
46 please raise their hand so that -- we got a few right here. You guys wanna  
47 move on up? I'm sorry, anyone with an empty chair, please raise their hand so  
48 the people in the back can fill in the spaces. There are two up here.

1 Gerald Pollet:  
2 [He requests a larger room.]

3  
4 Pat Serie:  
5 I'm afraid not. OK, Roger.

6  
7 Gerald Pollet:  
8 The DOE only had money to spend on keeping the reactor in standby ...

002207

9  
10 Pat Serie:  
11 Roger Stanley of the Department of Ecology is next, Mr. Pollet.

12  
13 Roger Stanley:  
14 OK. Thank you, Pat. As Pat noted my name is Roger Stanley. I'm with the  
15 Washington Department of Ecology. Pardon? Can you hear me all right? OK.  
16 As Pat noted, my name is Roger Stanley. I'm with the Washington Department of  
17 Ecology. I work within the department's Nuclear Mixed Waste Management  
18 Program and work on policy and Tri-Party Agreement negotiations. Before I  
19 make brief comments on tonight's meeting and the issues at hand, I'd like to  
20 start out with an announcement regarding the comment period. For those of you  
21 that picked up a copy of the change request (the one with the blue cover out  
22 on the front desk), it notes that the comment period ends on the last day of  
23 January. We are going to extend that comment period until February 20th to  
24 take into account the fact that the Hood River meeting was unfortunately  
25 canceled due to heavy snowfall. So the Hood River meeting is being  
26 rescheduled and actually right now I believe it's going to take place on  
27 February 12. So I know the document you have says that the end of the public  
28 comment period is the 31st of January. We're just in the process of changing  
29 that to give room for rescheduling the Hood River meeting.

30  
31 How many of you have just a brief Department of Ecology perspective on FFTF?  
32 Want to make some comments on FFTF restart? I'm also going to make just a  
33 brief comment on the Tri-Party Agreement itself and then finally on the  
34 Tri-Parties proposal to modify the TPA.

35  
36 Before talking about the TPA, I want to recognize the importance of issues  
37 that are raised by the potential for an FFTF restart. Those issues are  
38 important issues; they are important to the State of Washington. I know that  
39 they are important to the people in Oregon. They are important to the people  
40 of the Pacific Northwest, as they should be. It's a very, very large  
41 decision. The Department of Ecology will make its concerns known or will  
42 forward to DOE its concerns when and if DOE makes a formal decision to proceed  
43 with formal consideration of FFTF or the FFTF restart option. DOE has not  
44 made that decision to date. Should it do so, I would expect that the  
45 Department of Ecology would forward concerns that include the environmental  
46 impacts that such a restart would have, any wastes that would be generated,  
47 potential impacts to the Hanford cleanup that is underway now; impacts,  
48 including impacts related to funding of the Hanford cleanup effort and  
49 intersite waste issues that would be associated with it.

1 Secondly, as far as the Tri-Party Agreement itself (it was the mint green  
2 document that was on the back of the table), and it's been in place since May  
3 of 1989. That document is extremely important to the Department of Ecology  
4 and to the State of Washington. We take great pains to maintain its overall  
5 integrity and to keep its focus on its basic statutory purposes, mainly the  
6 cleanup of the Hanford Site. As far as the Tri-Party's tentative agreement to  
7 delete the current TPA FFTF deactivation schedules, we have agreed with the  
8 Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency (tentatively at  
9 this point in time prior to public comment) to delete those milestones based  
10 on, first of all, the FFTF is no longer in deactivation; current schedules  
11 that are in the TPA are out-of-date. Secondly, though consideration of  
12 restart is certainly a very important issue, but it is not a TPA issue per se.  
13 DOE's decision to halt deactivation was not a TPA decision. It was taken  
14 under the Secretary of Energy's authority and the decision to actually restart  
15 the TPA [FFTF] (or to shut it down) is also not going to be a TPA decision per  
16 se.

17  
18 Third, is that statutory responsibility, even if FFTF deactivation milestones  
19 are deleted, that doesn't let FFTF off the hook as far as environmental  
20 statutes, nor does it let DOE off the hook, or DOE's contractors. Those  
21 statutory requirements stand, and as Ernie noted, should we have overall  
22 environmental compliance issues during the interim period that FFTF operations  
23 are being considered, the state will address those through our Sitewide  
24 Compliance Assurance Program.

25  
26 The fourth element in our tentative agreement has been that the state does not  
27 like to leave enforceable milestones on the books that we are not taking  
28 action to actually enforce. As I noted that we keep a close eye on the  
29 overall integrity of the TPA.

30  
31 The other thing I wanted to note is that, though the most visible element of  
32 the proposed TPA modification is the deletion of the current out-of-date work  
33 schedules, really it's a three-cornered proposal. Deletion of the work  
34 schedules during this interim period is one. The second is the fact that the  
35 DOE's responsibility to comply with environmental law stands and DOE  
36 recognizes that within the tentative agreement. Third, is the reinstatement  
37 provision that Ernie also mentioned, so that if we get to the point where the  
38 decision is that indeed FFTF should be shut down, then we will take those  
39 schedules that are out-of-force, hold them up to the window so to speak, make  
40 whatever adjustments would be necessary (hopefully without any lengthy  
41 negotiations), and put them back in force.

42  
43 Finally, I would like to comment briefly on funding for the FFTF. The State  
44 of Washington is very concerned about the potential of significant impact,  
45 whether it be from FFTF standby or actual operations, on Hanford cleanup. The  
46 Hanford Site's mission is cleanup. The state believes that Hanford cleanup  
47 comes first and throughout this public comment period, we're looking at the  
48 potential for actually impacting Hanford cleanup. Should DOE proceed through  
49 the Environmental Impact Statement process, that would certainly be one of the  
50 headliners in the overall concerns of the state.

2 Finally, I want to note that though we believe that deletion of the current  
3 schedules is an appropriate course at this point in time, we have an open  
4 mind. This is not an issue where the state is hard on deletion and that's the  
5 only option. That's one of the main reasons why we come out to the public is  
6 to get your insights. So we're going through the public comment period and I  
7 appreciate all you folks for showing up and for your comments.

8 Pat Serie:

9 Mary Lou Blazek with the Oregon Department of Energy will give us her  
10 perspective.

11  
12 Mary Lou Blazek:

13 I'd like to say thank you all for taking the time, taking the effort to be  
14 here. I am just overwhelmed to see so many faces. I work for the Oregon  
15 Office of Energy, Governor Kitzhaber, and I'm going to share with you his  
16 perspective on this issue. But I'd like to let you know that  
17 Governor Kitzhaber and the Oregon Congressional delegation opposed tritium  
18 production at FFTF. Congresswoman Furse is hearing that first hand, but I'll  
19 take that back to the Governor as well.

002204

20  
21 Before addressing the specific issues which are the scope of this hearing,  
22 which we want to all do I'm sure, let me give you some perspective on our  
23 position, which there are copies of it on the table as you come in. That  
24 perspective is essential to adequately take into account the concerns of  
25 Oregonians in dealing with the issues which are the subject of this hearing.

26  
27 The primary mission at Hanford must continue to be cleanup and safe management  
28 of the waste. That is endangered when a production mission creates new waste.  
29 We have a lot of safety concerns about running FFTF for tritium production.  
30 We don't believe it's designed for this use, or that it was designed to run at  
31 the projected levels with a high percentage of plutonium in the fuel. We're  
32 very concerned about the cost and diverting federal funds from cleanup at  
33 Hanford to weapons production. Standby costs are 30 million dollars a year.  
34 While the money is not directly from cleanup funds, we agree, it still impacts  
35 DOE's overall budget. The whole medical isotopes issue that we're hearing so  
36 much about (a proposal to use FFTF solely for medical isotopes) would deserve  
37 further evaluation. But DOE has made it clear that won't happen without a  
38 tritium mission.

39  
40 As far as the proposed changes to the Tri-Party Agreement, which is why  
41 they've asked us to come here tonight and give our comments, their proposal is  
42 to delete certain milestones which cannot be met as long as FFTF is under  
43 consideration for a tritium mission. If the Secretary of Energy decides not  
44 to pursue a tritium mission, the parties propose to reinstate the milestones  
45 within nine months. After giving that a lot of consideration, we believe the  
46 process that they're proposing, that the three parties (the Environmental  
47 Protection Agency, the Washington Department of Ecology, and the U.S.  
48 Department of Energy) is not unreasonable if set the amount of time that is  
49 involved. We believe that if FFTF is ruled out of a tritium mission that the  
50 process to reinstate the milestones should be accelerated by at least 60 days,

2 which would save 15 to 30 million dollars. We call on the federal government  
3 to make a decision quickly, to rule out new weapons production at Hanford once  
4 and for all.

5 Pat Serie:

6 Well, Mary Lou, I think you just made the 11:00 news, and I don't think we'll  
7 be home to watch actually. OK, we, as Roger described, this is a tentative  
8 proposed change. We now have time on the agenda for an alternative viewpoint  
9 to granting those revisions and we have a four-part alternative viewpoint.  
10 We're very pleased first to have Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse with us here  
11 tonight representing Hanford Action of Oregon and we're going to ask her to  
12 say a few words first. Paige Knight has a statement from Mark Hatfield;  
13 Gerry Pollet has a statement from Senator Wyden; and then Paige is going to  
14 give us a Hanford Watch perspective on the alternative viewpoint to the  
15 proposal. We're going to do this very quickly, so I think  
16 Congresswoman Furse, we'll start with you, please.

17  
18 Elizabeth Furse:

002205

19 Thank you. I'm very pleased at the Governor's response; he gave us his  
20 response early. I want to tell you that I spoke to the Secretary of Energy  
21 (Secretary O'Leary) before she left on this issue. I spoke to the incoming  
22 Secretary Peña before he took office on this issue.

23  
24 You've heard correctly. Senator Wyden and I and other members of the Oregon  
25 delegation are very, very concerned and certainly oppose the opening of this  
26 site for tritium production. I'm going to very briefly tell you what my areas  
27 of concern are as we move forward. First of all, tritium production is as we  
28 know for nuclear weapons; that is the mission. So we must not be fooled by  
29 the idea that there might be another mission; it would be a tritium mission.

30  
31 As you know, the United States is at this present time in negotiation on the  
32 START II and START III talks on reduction of nuclear weapons. As you know,  
33 General Butler has introduced and spoken of the need to reduce all nuclear  
34 weapons. General Butler, who until 1994 was the Commander of Nuclear Weapons  
35 for the United States, and it is to me unthinkable that we might send a  
36 message to the international community that while we are at the one hand  
37 negotiating to reduce nuclear weapons, we are on the other hand considering  
38 the production of more nuclear weapons. So I think that this is an  
39 international issue and I think we should not neglect that part.

40  
41 You've already heard, and many people will talk to you about the issue of  
42 funds. The mission at Hanford is to cleanup, not to produce more waste. The  
43 mission at Hanford is cleanup. Another issue which I think we must very  
44 clearly speak to the Department of Energy is the issue of this sodium-cooled  
45 reactor. As you know, those reactors have been canceled in Germany, Britain,  
46 and France because there is strong feeling that they are not safe reactors.  
47 Therefore, we need to be making sure that our Columbia River residents, the  
48 people of this region, you and I, all of us who live in this region, are not  
49 put at another additional risk. We must make sure that is understood clearly.  
50 Another issue is that to start up this facility is the need for plutonium.

3 That means that we will see the bringing in of plutonium from areas around  
4 this country, and that is a great risk that we need to make sure that the  
5 Department of Energy is aware of how we feel on that.

6 We have no permanent repository site for waste; there is none. I serve on the  
7 Energy Subcommittee of the Commerce Committee and we wrestle with this at all  
8 times, but there is no permanent site. So any more materials means that once  
9 again we are at more risk. The third thing, or well the fourth thing, I'm  
10 probably on the fifth thing now, is we must look at how much money has been  
11 deflected already for cleanup and we need an accounting of that as we keep  
12 this mission at all alive. We need to make sure that there is money there and  
13 that money is not taken from cleanup. I didn't make the signs, folks.

14 But I want to close with telling you the good news. The good news is that we  
15 have a region that is full of people who are here tonight, but more than that  
16 we have organizations who are determined that these decisions will be made in  
17 the most open fashion and the people who I want to talk, to tell you about,  
18 other people like Hanford Action League, Heart of America Northwest, Hanford  
19 Watch; they are our citizens who are doing our citizens' work and a member of  
20 Congress who is a citizen cannot do the work of the Congress without those  
21 citizen groups. So, it is with deep gratitude that I see that those groups  
22 are here today and I thank the Governor and the rest of our delegation. I  
23 thank you for inviting me.

24 Paige Knight:

002206

25 OK, I am Paige Knight with Hanford Watch and right now I'm going to read a  
26 statement that just came through tonight from Senator Hatfield. He's just  
27 returned from Cuba and as soon as he got back he started working on this  
28 statement for our group and our region.

29  
30  
31 Thank you for your invitation to participate in today's Department of Energy  
32 hearing on altering the 1989 Hanford Tri-Party Agreement and restarting the  
33 Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) for the purpose of producing tritium for  
34 nuclear weapons. I regret that previous commitments prevent me from attending  
35 this critical event. The persistence by some to resume nuclear weapons  
36 production activities at Hanford, never ceases to amaze me. It is a shameful,  
37 it is shameful enough that the region has not taken steps to close its only  
38 operating commercial nuclear reactor, the WPPSS plant at Hanford, even though  
39 an excellent case can be made against it now on purely economic grounds. This  
40 abdication of responsibility pales in comparison, however, to the insidious  
41 proposal to restart the aging FFTF research reactor for the purpose of  
42 producing tritium, a radioactive substance that enhances the destructive  
43 capability of nuclear weapons. It is disappointing that this issue is even  
44 being seriously discussed here, a region of the country that has learned the  
45 hard way that the price of nuclear technology is much higher than the experts  
46 and proponents of nuclear power are ever honest enough to acknowledge.

47  
48 For example, the WPPSS nuclear debacle was one of the greatest economic  
49 disasters of the century and continues to cost the region's electricity  
50 customers over 500 million dollars a year. The Department of Energy was

3 forced to stop lying to the public and close the N Reactor at Hanford in 1988  
4 when it was revealed that hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars were being  
5 wasted producing a product (plutonium) for which there was no critical need.  
6 The cleanup of the Hanford reservation will cost hundreds of billions of  
7 dollars, take decades to accomplish, and continue to threaten human health and  
8 safety. The Trojan Nuclear Power Plant in Oregon was closed because it was  
9 uneconomical and still awaits decommissioning.

10 Considering all of this, how could any rational person or bureaucracy consider  
11 adding to the nuclear misery already visited upon the Pacific Northwest? How  
12 many lessons do we have to learn before we turn from the broken promises of  
13 the nuclear myths? Hanford is the greatest environmental threat to the people  
14 of the Pacific Northwest. Restarting any nuclear reactor for weapons  
15 production purposes is misguided at best and transparently evil at worst. It  
16 is also a clear violation of the spirit and intent of the Tri-Party Agreement  
17 and a complete reversal of our focused mission over the last 20 years to clean  
18 up the largest environmental disaster area in the nation.

19 Long ago, the Northwest made decisions that turned us away from the nuclear  
20 production of weapons material and electricity. It is time again to reject  
21 the sermons of the nuclear proselytizers and say no to those who preach death,  
22 destruction, and ruin to our world and the region. I commend you for your  
23 continued commitment to protecting the people and the environment of the  
24 Pacific Northwest. Do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of further  
25 service to your endeavors.

27 And I read those to all of us and I really thank all of you for taking time  
28 out of your schedule to be here tonight. This is very awesome.

30 Pat Serie:

31 Gerry Pollet will read a statement from Senator Wyden.

33 Gerald Pollet:

002207

34 Thank you. Senator Wyden joined Representative Furse and representatives at  
35 the Governor's office and public interest groups on Friday at a news  
36 conference, and he has been working with Representative Furse to try to stop  
37 the Department of Energy from robbing your cleanup dollars to fund a bomb  
38 factory at Hanford. And he's sorry he couldn't be here and faxed this over  
39 today to be read:

002208

41 I am writing to urge, to the Secretary of Energy, excuse me, not just to us  
42 but to the Secretary of Energy, I'm writing to urge you in the strongest  
43 possible terms to set aside any proposal to restart the FFTF at the Hanford  
44 Nuclear Reservation. As you know, I am very concerned about the cleanup of  
45 Hanford and strongly feel that it should proceed without delay.

47 More than a million Oregonians live within 50 miles of the Columbia River  
48 downstream from Hanford. Contaminated plumes already threaten the river and  
49 the web of life it supports. We cannot afford to take our eyes off the main  
50 goal, which is and must remain, the effective cleanup of the nuclear legacy on



1 the river's banks. I urge you to send a clear message. Keep the FFTF reactor  
2 in the Tri-Party Agreement and push ahead with its decommissioning and  
3 cleanup. Hanford is a difficult problem; it must be solved. The people and  
4 the environment of the Pacific Northwest are depending on it.

002207

5  
6 And then to the dollars. I must also point out that the continued use of  
7 cleanup money to keep FFTF in standby is not authorized by Congress.  
8 Senator Wyden then points out that DOE asked for permission to do this and was  
9 refused it and when we have signs up here in the room that say the Department  
10 of Energy at Hanford is robbing your cleanup dollars of 32 million dollars a  
11 year to keep it illegally on standby, that's what we're talking about. And in  
12 perspective, Senator Wyden wanted me to offer this: 32 million dollars of  
13 your cleanup funds this year are going instead of to cleanup, to support an  
14 FFTF being kept on hot standby for a weapons mission.

15  
16 Over the next year, we will have ended up at nearly 100 million dollars having  
17 been robbed from Hanford cleanup. And this is at a time when the Hanford  
18 Manager says he will not pay out of Hanford cleanup money because he doesn't  
19 have the money for medical monitoring of downwinders from Hanford, which the  
20 Center for Disease Control says which saves six to eight lives each year at a  
21 cost of nine to twelve million. In other words, for one-third the cost of  
22 keeping the reactor on hot standby for nuclear weapons with your cleanup  
23 dollars, we could save six to eight lives. But the Department of Energy would  
24 rather support a nuclear weapons mission than spend your cleanup dollars on  
25 medical monitoring, thereby condemning six to eight people to die this year  
26 and next year until they get their priorities right.

27  
28 That is why Senator Wyden is going to fight the Department of Energy and try  
29 to make sure they do not continue to steal your money, and why he's encouraged  
30 all of us to send this message tonight--pay back the 100 million; that this  
31 should be part of the Tri-Party Agreement. The Tri-Party Agreement should say  
32 the Department of Energy should pay back the money it has robbed from Hanford  
33 cleanup. Thank you.

34  
35 Paige Knight:

002209

36 I am speaking now on behalf of Hanford Watch, a local organization here that  
37 has been working on Hanford issues for the last six years and we work in  
38 conjunction with the other groups that have worked so hard to get this turnout  
39 tonight. Let me begin with stating the belief of our members in Hanford Watch  
40 that this country does not need to produce tritium until well into the next  
41 century, if at all. Nor can it afford the cost in dollars or the cost in  
42 change of mission at Hanford from its current cleanup mission.

43  
44 We are facing the close of the century in which war has reigned supreme. We  
45 have not experienced the peace dividend that was promised us with the advent  
46 of the nuclear age by the sponsors of the Manhattan Project. What is more,  
47 the nuclear age has put the health and safety of our environment and our  
48 people, from Hanford communities to the residents of St. George, Utah, who  
49 were showered with massive doses of radioactive fallout from the Nevada Test  
50 Site, to those around the Fernald Site in Ohio, who found massive levels of

1 nuclear contamination in their drinking water wells, to those near the  
2 Savannah River Site who have suffered the poor health of downwinders all over  
3 the world. The Manhattan Project of the U.S. government has turned out to be  
4 a war against its own people.

5  
6 This hearing tonight is the beginning of a larger debate that this region and  
7 our country needs to have to bring a more farsighted and truly humanitarian  
8 vision to the realm of science; in this case, nuclear science. This is one of  
9 the first in a series of battles that are at the forefront in the Northwest to  
10 stop startup a whole new generation of nuclear production that feeds the  
11 corporate pockets and shortchanges (harms) the ordinary citizen. If FFTF  
12 should be chosen for a tritium mission, and remember there is no isotope  
13 production without tritium, it will in effect bring us transportation of  
14 plutonium from around the country to be used as fuel; it will call into the  
15 production mode the startup of the fuels fabrication and examination facility  
16 at Hanford; and it could eventually lead to the government subsidized  
17 refurbishing of the WPPSS power plant at Hanford, a perfect scenario for the  
18 revival of the nuclear industry at Hanford. The will of Congress to affect  
19 and fund true cleanup is already diminishing. This could be the death now for  
20 cleanup.

21  
22 You will be called upon to attend other hearings over the next year or two,  
23 all equally as important as this. I urge you to listen, learn from one  
24 another, and speak out tonight and usher forth a new course of stewardship for  
25 our human and natural resources as we near the beginning of a new century.

26  
27 I have gone on in my comments and I would rather get to the comments of the  
28 people here because I know many of you will cover the same points as I. I  
29 have mentioned many of the safety issues: the fact that the FFTF sits on an  
30 earthquake zone that's not very safe; that it has archaic control systems;  
31 that some of the plans for the FFTF is (if it gets the tritium mission) to  
32 push the mission so that it produces more tritium than makes the reactor safe  
33 when it already isn't as safe it is purported to be. And then we haven't even  
34 dealt with the issue of where to store the waste that the Congresswoman Furse  
35 just brought up. So, uh ...

36  
37 **END OF TAPE**

38  
39 Unidentified person:

002210

40 ... came out an adamant opponent of restarting the FFTF. So, Christine.

41  
42 Unidentified person:

002211

43 Thank you very much, and it's really good to see so many people here actually.  
44 I'm really impressed. First of all, I want to say that I'm sorry the  
45 Congressman could not be here tonight. He would have liked to and for those  
46 of you who may or may not know, he represents Oregon's Third Congressional  
47 District in Congress. He did ask me to come and read a statement, very brief:  
48 I strongly urge Secretary of Energy Federico Peña to fight against restarting  
49 the Fast Flux Test Facility at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

1 Like many Oregonians, I have been pleased by the shift in Hanford's mission  
2 from nuclear weapons production to environmental cleanup. The deactivation  
3 and transition of FFTF to a safe and stable condition has been a critical  
4 component of the shift and has an enormously positive effect on our region's  
5 environment and economy. At a time when the Department of Energy has finally  
6 admitted that radioactive waste from Hanford is moving towards the Columbia  
7 River, the very lifeblood of the Pacific Northwest, I find it incredible that  
8 we were even considering taking action that is not directly cleanup related.  
9 Now is not the time to turn back the clock on progress that we've made; rather  
10 I urge the Department of Energy to redouble its efforts to strengthen and  
11 focus on Hanford's cleanup mission.  
12

13 It's disconcerting to me that scarce DOE funds, our environmental management  
14 funds, may be subsidizing future tritium production at FFTF while critical  
15 cleanup activities go unfunded. These funds are urgently needed for  
16 protecting the Columbia River from Hanford's already contaminated groundwater.  
17 Reintroducing tritium production would be a dramatic step backwards for  
18 Hanford's cleanup mission, and I urge Secretary Peña not to take that step.  
19

20 Pat Serie:

21 Thank you, to all of you, for those perspectives. As I mentioned, I want to  
22 have an opportunity for questions of the speakers, primarily of a clarifying  
23 nature, so we can move on to a very long list of public commentators and get  
24 through that whole thing. So if anyone has a question that they would like  
25 clarification on before we proceed to comment. Oh, the other thing is, just  
26 so we can, and I apologize for the incredible discomfort, we're going to haul  
27 those two graphics out in the hall, so if you guys can part waters just a tad  
28 so we can get those out of here it would help just a little. Uh, yes sir?  
29

30 Question #1 from audience:

31 I have a question for Roger Stanley. In the reality of cleanup at Hanford, as  
32 it now stands, can it really be cleaned and made nuclear safe, ever? Yes or  
33 no?  
34

35 Roger Stanley:

36 I doubt it.  
37

38 Person asking Question #1:

39 Thank you.  
40

41 Question #2 from Paige Leven:

42 You said that you were coming in carrying ... with an open mind and although  
43 we haven't heard everybody's comments just yet, I think that the reaction to  
44 Mary Lou's comments gives her the clear picture of what we're dealing with, of  
45 what you're running. We got so many people here they can't even fit into the  
46 room. What is it going to take? Of all else ... What kind of reaction is it  
47 going to take? How many rooms are we going to have to overfill? How many  
48 liars do you have to send? Give a structure for completion of what we need to  
do to send you the message, that people do not want the TPA ... happen but we

1 want ... the TPA to be upheld ... that we want the Department of Energy ...  
2 What do we have to do?

3  
4 Roger Stanley:

5 As you know, we have a total of four meetings scheduled. When we went through  
6 the deliberations early on, on deletion of the milestones, or what to do with  
7 the milestones, the three basic options we looked at were to pull them out now  
8 because they were out of date (do we delete them); or to cross off the  
9 delivery dates and write in "to be determined"; and the third option that we  
10 looked at was frankly to do nothing, just kind of sit on it for a while. We  
11 decided against the "cross off the delivery" dates and write in the "to be  
12 determined" option because to us it was like having milestones that are moot  
13 basically in the TPA; dead leaves on a live tree wouldn't do us any good in  
14 our view. We felt that deleting the milestones was the best option, at least  
15 prior to public comment, because by deleting them we reflect the current  
16 situation--the facility is not in deactivation anymore. We don't bring into  
17 question the overall integrity of the TPA by leaving enforceable milestones in  
18 place, but not doing anything about them.

19  
20 The third option, just leaving the milestones alone, again not enforcing them  
21 because the facility is not in deactivation anymore. We didn't think that was  
22 appropriate because the overall issue of the TPA issue at hand, as well as the  
23 larger FFTF debate, is an important one that we felt needed to proceed and get  
24 in front of the public. As we go through these four meetings, we're going to  
25 take comments on the TPA change request and then make a decision as to whether  
26 or not to go ahead and delete them or modify. So we're interested in your  
27 views and your insights on that point.

28  
29 Unidentified person:

30 Pat, I think this gentleman ...

31  
32 Question #3 from audience:

33 I would like to ask Mr. Hughes who says there's no discharge ... Why does  
34 Germany and other countries decide ... is not safe?

35  
36 Pat Serie:

37 Did everyone hear the question? OK, good. The question is why can this  
38 operation be safe if Germany and other countries have decided that this type  
39 of reactor is not safe?

40  
41 Ernie Hughes:

42 I'm not ... I'm not ... familiar in detail with the ... EBR-2 that's now shut  
43 down because there was no future for the mission. It was shut down over the  
44 past two to three years. I'm not familiar with the German situation. I know  
45 that, well I, we've concentrated on our own. There are people who are and I  
46 personally am not. The Department of Energy, we certainly have people who are  
47 in our international section that spend a lot of time understanding other  
48 people's problems and trying to avoid them on our own. But as far as FFTF is  
49 concerned, FFTF had a ten-year operating record with an excellent safety  
50 record. I don't think its safety has ever been truly challenged. We do not,

2 as I mentioned before, discharge effluents. Now the sodium reactor and I'm  
3 just going to take one second. The difference between major safety difference  
4 between the sodium-cooled reactor and a light water reactor is the pressure.  
5 Light water reactors, to keep a water in a liquid state, you have to  
6 pressurize them enormously. They run at about 2,250 pounds pressure within  
7 the primary system and maintain the water in a liquid state so you get this  
8 enormous pressure bottled up, along with the 800 odd degrees fahrenheit of  
9 heat. In a liquid sodium reactor, because sodium doesn't melt until about 208  
10 degrees and boils not until over 1,600 degrees, you can operate a sodium  
11 reactor in the 900 degree fahrenheit range with no pressure. So our reactor  
12 operates virtually at atmospheric pressure and that's a major safety  
13 difference.

14 But what I had said before was that it had to do with the discharge. We do  
15 not discharge, particularly into the Columbia, which I know is of great  
16 concern to everybody, nor do we discharge to the ground.

17  
18 Question from audience:  
19 Inaudible

20  
21 Ernie Hughes:  
22 There's no discharge of the sodium and the radioactive liquids are contained.

23  
24 Inaudible

25  
26 Pat Serie:  
27 Slow down here. Remember we're trying to get to the public comment period on  
28 the subject at hand and so that was a perfectly fair question. Gerry would  
29 like to add a little something to that answer and we need to take the next  
30 couple of questions and get ready to move on to public comment, please.

31  
32 Gerald Pollet:

33 There are a couple of things that Mr. Hughes is leaving out. First off, what  
34 they don't want you to know about is this isn't just about running the  
35 reactor. In order to run the reactor, they have to bring in that 33 metric  
36 tons of weapons-grade plutonium and run an incredibly risky and dirty process  
37 to turn that into the fuel for the reactor, which would be done at Hanford.  
38 And the waste generated would double the annual amount of transuranic waste  
39 generated at Hanford; 200 percent increase in the hazardous transuranic  
40 wastes. It would increase a whole slew of chemical discharges and there is no  
41 answer as to where the heck it would go. And it would all have to be paid for  
42 out of the Hanford cleanup budget, which the Department of Energy in its  
43 wisdom and commitment to cleanup, has said is capped at current levels in  
44 their ten-year plan without even an inflation increase.

45  
46 Mr. Hughes also talks about safety. As long as he's going to talk about  
47 safety, let's talk about the Department of Energy's own documents. We're  
48 gonna hear a lot about this, to run on an untested high-level of plutonium  
49 necessary to produce tritium for bombs. Never before tested, 40 percent  
50 weapons-grade plutonium in the core without, according to their own Defense

1 program, without any time in their schedule to run the safety analyses and  
2 tests to ensure safety is what the Defense program and its JASON report had to  
3 say: "The peak temperature in the fuel elements will be close to the melting  
4 point at full power. The peak temperature cannot be predicted accurately.  
5 The lithium could melt and be swept out of the core resulting in a rapid rise  
6 of reactivity and possible prompt criticality. No time is provided in the  
7 schedule to accommodate any safety testing or modifications required by test  
8 results."

9  
10 The bottom line here is this: if they can't start this sucker up in five  
11 years, they lose their justification for it. So it's safety be damned.  
12 Mr. Hughes has been resisting FOIA requests for safety information. Turns out  
13 they've stamped Secret on documents about dose estimates from tritium releases  
14 in the past at FFTF and its fuel fabrication facilities. And now, Mr. Hughes  
15 stood up here in his opening statement and said this isn't about restart? But  
16 let me read to you from their own document: "There will have to be a  
17 concerted effort to minimize the total time required to complete the  
18 regulatory process."

19  
20 Both DOE organizations reports imply that the initial tritium production is  
21 possible in four to five years including all paperwork and renegotiating the  
22 agreement on FFTF shutdown among EPA, DOE, and the State of Washington, the  
23 Tri-Party Agreement. Folks, this is it. This is the first and only major  
24 external legal hurdle between restart and this man and his program. The  
25 Tri-Party Agreement is the only external legal hurdle they face. The  
26 Department of Ecology folks did not know about these documents that said this  
27 was their major external legal hurdle and they needed to delete it as step one  
28 towards restart when they negotiated this. And if it was up to the program  
29 people, none of us would know.

30  
31 Pat Serie:

32 Thank you. OK. We're going to take two more questions and then we're going  
33 to move into comments. OK? And the questions we have? Don? Sir, right here  
34 in the front row.

35  
36 Question #4 from audience:

37 Mr. Stanley, it sounds to me like that you're saying that any time we can't  
38 afford the Tri-Party Agreement, that we're going to roll over and play dead.  
39 If you're going to delete these milestones just because you think you're not  
40 going to use them and can't enforce it. If you can't enforce this milestone  
41 then does that mean the rest of the Tri-Party Agreement is meaningless also?

42  
43 Roger Stanley:

44 No, it certainly is not. The fact of the matter is that the FFTF is no longer  
45 in deactivation. The Secretary of Energy halted deactivation. What we, what  
46 we ...

47  
48 Question from audience:

49 Why don't we take some legal action against that?

1 Roger Stanley:

2 Because we don't have the grounds to do that. The Secretary of Energy  
3 operated within her legal authority when she halted deactivation.  
4

5 Gerald Pollet:

6 She did not have legal authority to break her prenup agreement, Roger. And  
7 she can't decide unilaterally; you have to stop them from unilaterally ripping  
8 up portions of the agreement from ... time before. This is no different from  
9 any other milestone. The signed document and committed to shutting the  
10 reactor down on a timeline. The major reason for doing so was it was sucking  
11 up Hanford's cleanup money and they promised to meet the timeline so that  
12 those funds could go to higher priority environmental management activities.  
13 That's a quote from the agreement that we negotiated in '95 and the ink is  
14 barely dry, and they are sucking up the cleanup dollars, and they unilaterally  
15 decided. The Secretary of Energy had no legal authority to rip out part of  
16 your agreement and it's really what is happening here is that ...  
17

002207

18 Unidentified person:

19 Up to you.  
20

21 Pat Serie:

22 OK. Listen we've got by my count, several hundred people here. We have four  
23 pages of people who have signed up according to the agenda and rules to  
24 provide public comment and we need to capture that public comment on the  
record. ... This will be our last question.

27 Question #5 from audience:

28 ... If they were to bring 33 tons of plutonium here, isn't that about 2/3 of  
29 all the plutonium there is ... volume at Hanford?  
30

31 Gerald Pollet:

32 You bet. Right now, ... most of the weapons-grade plutonium that isn't going  
33 to be any active stockpile will end up in your backyard after being on our  
34 roads during ice storms and maybe it'll sit at Hanford. And guess who's  
35 paying for it to sit at Hanford? The current practice is the best predictor  
36 of future activity. Now ... Fox said these criteria ... by current resources  
37 or efforts from Hanford cleanup but as we speak, at Hanford the plutonium, the  
38 weapons-grade plutonium that's there right now, is being stored at cost, not  
39 to the weapons program, which refuses to let Roger and Mike Wilson from  
40 Ecology regulate it by the way, but is being stored at cost to the Hanford  
41 cleanup budget at a cost of 40 million a year. That would pay to empty all  
42 the single-shell tanks of pumpable liquids before they leak this year, which  
43 the Department of Energy also claims they don't have the money to do, in  
44 violation of the Hanford cleanup agreement. So if current practice is the  
45 best predictor, the Hanford cleanup budget will probably suck up a 100 million  
46 dollar loss to store the plutonium. We haven't even talked about the  
47 high-level nuclear waste that it will create yet.  
48

002207

Pat Serie:

When it's your turn to give your position you may do that in ... ten minutes. Thank you. Our first public commentor tonight is state Senator Kate Brown ... there you are. This mic will be just fine or feel free to use this one up here if you want to get ... either way ...

Kate Brown:

002212

I can at least see over this one if I move it. I can't even do it. Thanks. Thank you. Good evening. Thank you very much for the opportunity to be here tonight. I'm state Senator Kate Brown. I represent Senate District Seven and I'm here today to express my grave concerns with any plan to reserve the FFTF, rather than disassembling as planned. This year the Oregon legislature passed a resolution declaring the state's unalterable opposition to using Hanford for operations that create more contamination, divert scarce resources from cleanup, or make the cleanup more difficult.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Oregon legislature, it is controlled, both Houses, by Republicans, and is not characterized by its great liberality. And the vote in the Oregon State House was 53 to 3, and the Oregon State Senate (of which I serve) it was 28 to 1. The process of using plutonium to fuel reactors or to make bombs is a dangerous and unacceptable diversion from the only reasonable course of action: continue disassembly and cleanup. The current level of contamination at Hanford threatens the health and safety of the region's environment and every single one of its citizens, including many of us Oregonians. Any action, including revising the TPA, that might dilute the Department of Energy's efforts to strengthen and focus the Hanford cleanup mission must be stopped. Using the FFTF threatens the cleanup effort and brings new risks of contamination. Those risks to Oregon and to the entire Northwest are absolutely and completely unacceptable. Thank you.

Unidentified person:

Frank Shields here? There he is ...

Frank Shields:

002213

Thank you for the opportunity for coming this evening. Kate has just shared what I shared with a group that was here, what last summer? Say in June? I guess it was. It was right after the legislature, so you're right, it had to be in July, and I basically shared at that time the quotes that I have from House Bill 3640. The only thing I think I can add to what she said is that in the legislature you get a true (I think) representation of the feelings of Oregonians who are not the experts. I mean you've heard expert testimony this evening. You've heard prophetic words from Senator Hatfield and really profound stuff from a lot of other people. But the legislature is a body of 90 people, most of whom are all caught up in funding education, and you know their interest in land use planning and a lot of other issues. But to get those 90 people as focused as they were on this resolution makes one hell of a statement from the State of Oregon. I mean, we never agreed on anything. I'll take my crack at Kate here, especially over in the Senate.



But my point is for all that are after testimony, you need to hear from those people who come from little towns; I mean state representatives and state senators all over this state. They're not the experts, but boy, they have a feeling of the pulse of their districts and I think they spoke very well for the three million people in the State of Oregon.

Pat Serie:

Thank you Representative Shields. OK. What I'm going to do is give the name of the next person up and the two people in the bull pen, if you will. Feel free to come up and use this podium and this mic or to be there in the aisle. As I mentioned, if you're representing an organization, please state that and please limit yourself to under five minutes; individuals we would like to ask for three minutes because, like I said, we do have four pages. Dave Johnson is the next person who signed up, followed by Rochelle Giddings and William Giddings. Mr. Johnson.

Dave Johnson:

Hi. My name is Dave Johnson and to give you a little background, quick, I only have three minutes here. In 1960, I was a fledgling physicist and I went to work for Hanford and I eventually wound up doing measurements. There were eight operating reactors there producing plutonium for nuclear weapons and I did measurements on the reactors, including N Reactor, wrote the final document on mock-up experiments on N Reactor before it was put into production. I left there and went to graduate school at the University of Washington, got a Ph.D. in nuclear physics. Went back to Hanford in 1974. I worked in the core physics group on the FFTF reactor, working for Westinghouse Hanford. I did, oh, analysis of safety issues, calculations of reactor startup, preparations for measurements of neutronics environment in the reactor core during initial operation. Then I left that project and went on to other things in Westinghouse.

That was a long time ago. I'm now retired and I have no financial dependence on either nuclear industry or environmental groups. My opinions are my own. I want to focus mainly on safety issues and fuel performance issues about the FFTF reactor. That's where I have some knowledge, although I have strong feelings about producing more nuclear waste. The changes that are proposed in the FFTF reactor are very significant. It's a fast reactor, meant to produce something that tritium would be produced mainly, more efficiently than a thermal reactor. Apples and oranges; it's a very significant change here. The FFTF, as it's been designed and operated, I believe has been safe. Being on the inside, I know that insiders believe that safety is an important concern. They've done everything that they can and I think would likely be operated safely in the future given enough money and time. Unfortunately, I think that there's a certain amount of gamesmanship that goes on; to propose something that is underfunded and hope that you can get it and keep it running. Because of the significant modifications that are proposed for the reactor, there are significant safety issues that have to be dealt with. Highly enriched fuel has never been tested; it has to be tested to make sure that you can pull it out and operate safely. I can't get into the details of

002214

2 those; I don't know all of the details or issues because I haven't seen all  
3 the documentations.

4 Many of the things that are safety issues will have to be tested in the FFTF.  
5 It was designed as a test reactor and so that's not outside its mission. But  
6 you don't start out fully with a change. You might start a few fuel elements,  
7 then radiate them for a year or so, pull them out, make measurements. That  
8 takes a couple of years before you know the results. So I'm saying that the  
9 measurements that would be required will take much longer than are currently  
10 predicted and partly it is because the infrastructure in the nuclear  
11 engineering business is pretty well gone nowadays. A lot of the design work  
12 that went into the FFTF, which was designed about 25 years ago, is not  
13 available anymore. EBR-2 is shut down. Some of the test facilities at  
14 Argonne National Lab are shut down. It's not there anymore.

15  
16 When I started at Hanford, I was 23 years old and I was naive. Basically I  
17 wanted a job with a good future and I like many Americans at that time, felt  
18 that security of the United States was partly dependent on producing nuclear  
19 weapons. I'm now 59 years old and I no longer believe that the security of  
20 the U.S. depends on production of tritium for nuclear weapons. And I  
21 challenge the Department of Energy to justify the need for more tritium.  
22 Technically, the FFTF is the poorest of three candidates for production of  
23 tritium. In my opinion the accelerator production of tritium is by far the  
24 best. I have significant experience in both reactors and accelerators. I've  
25 written technical documents on both, including accelerated production of  
26 tritium. I believe the use of FFTF for tritium production is an extremely  
27 poor use of taxpayer money and I propose keeping the TPA Agreements as they  
28 are for FFTF.

29  
30 Pat Serie:

31 Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Rochelle Giddings. What I might ask you to do is to  
32 sort of get ready either at the side so we can move right along.

33  
34 Rochelle Giddings:

35 I'm from Tacoma, Washington. I came down here because I am a downwinder. I  
36 lived in Pasco from 1946 early until 1954, when I graduated from high school.  
37 And my brother is eight years younger than I am, my sister is four years  
38 older, and my mother lost a baby while we lived in Pasco and we don't know why  
39 that was. Her other three babies were all born, not in Pasco.

40  
41 The Washington State DOE is being jerked around by the U.S. Department of  
42 Energy and where is the EPA?. The people of the Northwest are counting on the  
43 Washington Department of Ecology to be our voice to clean up the Hanford mess.  
44 Some of our knowledgeable elected officials who had a memory of the TPA are no  
45 longer in office: Don Bonker, Mike Lowry, and a good Senator named  
46 Al Williams, who I worked for when I was getting my degree at PLU. We need to  
47 keep on track toward cleanup. We should put the FFTF back on its shutdown  
48 schedule. It is an old reactor now and we should be decommissioning it for at  
49 least safety reasons, if not for health reasons. Eventually, all of us that  
50 are downwinders will die. It's up to us now to do the work that needs to be

002215

done. We know cleanup is relative, but at least we can stop adding to the problem. Just because the agreement has been broken does not mean we throw out the mission. Don't let the TPA get picked apart. The FFTF must stay in it and be shut down for good. The U.S. Department of Energy should pay back the State of Washington the wasted cleanup dollars.

Pat Serie:

I hear that this mic is not functioning well for the people in the back room. Is that correct? Dennis, is there a way that we can move one of these over here? Does this work if I speak right into it? OK. One more second. After Gerry Pollet will be, Greg Kafoury?

William Giddings:

I'm William Giddings, also from Tacoma, Washington. We carpoled. I'd like to talk a bit about public trust. In 1976, the voters of the State of Washington passed a Nuclear Safeguards Initiative after much hard work by many of us. But to no affect because the federal government had preempted our right to protect ourselves. And so I personally was very much encouraged by the existence of a Tri-Party Agreement, where the State Department of Ecology, whom I always believed and still believe, is in our corner, was one of the three parties. Recognizing, of course, that one party is more equal than the other two. Now by a decision initiated, I just heard tonight, by a commercial enterprise, through the Secretary of Energy to make impossible the fulfillment of that agreement, much as I appreciate the efforts to justify, delete it, if you can't meet it. I'm afraid that the history has been such that I do not share the confidence that if you take this out that we will simply put it back after reasonable negotiating period. If we could trust promises then why do we need to take any action to change the Tri-Party Agreement at all?

002216

Pat Serie:

OK, good. Thank you so far for being so succinct and actually getting some focus on the TPA milestone. Tom Carpenter is going to take Gerry Pollet's place, switch places. After Tom, we will have Greg Kafoury and Robin Klein.

Tom Carpenter:

Government Accountability Project provides pro bono legal counseling and support for concerned employees, whistleblowers, at places like the Hanford Site. We've done so for many years now. We are based in Washington, D.C.; we also have an office in Seattle, which is where I am from, and we have been there since 1992, mostly to further our commitment to exposing and addressing environmental, safety, and health deficiencies and abuses at the Hanford nuclear weapons reservation. We also represent, or have represented, DOE and DOE contractor whistleblowers at various other sites nationally. Most of our Hanford whistleblowers worked or have worked in the high-level nuclear waste operations, where they faced the production era's legacy of inferior waste disposal practices. Radioactive waste was buried in tanks at the Hanford Site in trenches, ditches, and dumped almost directly in the Columbia River.

002217

Sixty-seven million gallons of the waste is stored in 177 underground tanks. A third of these tanks are known to be leaking radioactive and chemical toxic

1 solutions to the ground, and as we have been saying for years and has been  
2 recently acknowledged by the Department of Energy, this waste is now in the  
3 groundwater and heading toward the Columbia River and, therefore, to Portland  
4 eventually.

5  
6 The reason I bring up these cases is they illustrate the unrelenting efforts  
7 of some Hanford managers to remove essential resources from conscientious  
8 employees and to reassigned or terminate qualified personnel who refused to  
9 remain silent on the mismanagement of the Hanford tank cleanup program. This  
10 situation is especially grave when at issue is the irreversible contamination  
11 of groundwater and Columbia River. The individuals responsible for  
12 suppressing the problems associated with the leaking high-level nuclear waste  
13 and mischaracterizing the nature of them, will soon be in charge of deciding  
14 how the final disposition of the waste will be conducted. This history is  
15 important in the context of our comments because there could be no doubt that  
16 Hanford has earned the distinction of being labeled the most contaminated  
17 facility in the United States, largely due to mismanagement, misplaced  
18 priorities, poor science, and an unremitting disregard for the health and  
19 safety of the Hanford workers and the public.

20  
21 Even with the end of the production mission at Hanford in 1992, what we call  
22 the reign of error at Hanford has continued. The cleanup at Hanford is bogged  
23 down in the same political intrigue, mismanagement, that has plagued the  
24 production mission. The result is that despite the commitment of over nine  
25 billion dollars by the U.S. taxpayers, Hanford has made little discernable  
26 progress of cleaning up the worst of contamination. And yet it is now, when  
27 the cleanup budget has been drastically reduced, resulting in unacceptable  
28 cutbacks of the safe maintenance and operation of tank waste, that Hanford  
29 clamors for a new production mission.

30  
31 Against this back drop of hopeless mismanagement and staggering radiological  
32 pollution, it is the height of folly to suggest that the State of Washington  
33 accede to the demands of the U.S. Department of Energy to delete the  
34 decommissioning and cleanup of the FFTF reactor in the cleanup agreement. An  
35 internal review of the technical basis for the FFTF restart proposal by the  
36 Department of Energy concluded: No engineer would propose a fast reactor to  
37 make tritium from lithium, which is a thermal neutron absorber, and modifying  
38 a test reactor to the strength capacity as a production machine; and it places  
39 the plant at risk. This is the Department of Energy's own scientists saying  
40 this is not a safe plant. Of major concern for turning a test reactor into a  
41 production facility is that in order to produce enough tritium, justify  
42 restart, dangerously high and untested levels of plutonium (up to 50 percent),  
43 must fuel the reactor. Plutonium is a hundred thousand times more radioactive  
44 than uranium, making an accident at this facility extremely hazardous of  
45 course.

46  
47 The DOE report stated that the standard calculation of the worst-case  
48 scenario, known as what they called the bomb calculation, would have to be  
49 done for this reactor because no calculations exist for such a high  
50 concentration of plutonium. For postulated accidents, the DOE internal report

notes that the particular design of FFTF can "trigger a very severe accident." The DOE further noted that high production levels necessary to make the FFTF financially viable "may reduce the controllability of the reactor" and I quote "the safety risk increased almost literally with tritium production rates."

Another expert analysis of the FFTF restart proposal made the following comment on the plutonium rich fuel: "The reactor contains 1400 kilograms of weapons-grade plutonium and a compact configuration close to prompt criticality." Deletion of the FFTF milestone for the TPA helps pave the way for the DOE to restart FFTF for the production of tritium.

In 1992, former President Bush made a solemn promise that as the nation celebrated the end of the cold war and sought to redefine its relationship to the world, so too, must Hanford redefine its mission. President Bush vowed that there would be no further weapons material production at the Hanford Site. He proposed that instead Hanford should serve as a laboratory, apply the same creativity and innovation to cleanup that it had applied to production. This is no small task. DOE's consideration of FFTF for restocking the nation's tritium supply would only serve as an interim measure until a primary source could be established, either through the building of an accelerator or the conversion of a commercial plant. This fact cast further doubt on the wisdom of restarting this facility given the potential dangers associated with the deadly waste which will be generated. The switch from cleanup to a new military mission, the transportation of weapons-grade plutonium on our highways, will increase risks of the already threatened Columbia River's ecosystem, and the diversion of cleanup dollars. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Tom, so that we can get it into the records. Tom, you were representing the Government Accountability Project? Correct? OK, good. All right. We have Greg Kafoury, then Robin Klein, and Michael Honke. Greg, are you representing Hanford Action organization?

Greg Kafoury:

Greg Kafoury; I'm with Don't Waste Oregon. Brothers and sisters. How long has it been? How many struggles have we fought together? Everywhere I look, I see heroes of mine; people who have been in the trenches, on the barricades, at the voting booths. All the battles that we've won. You know that they wanted to put 20 nuclear plants in the Willamette Valley. Remember those days? The last one they've got in the Northwest is hanging on by its fingernails at Hanford and still they come with these crackpot proposals. Every study tells us that we would be safer with no nuclear weapons in this world and yet what are we doing? We are cranking back up again. You know we used to have a debate about whether or not the nuclear industry, the arms industries, were ideologically driven or money driven. I think that's been answered now, hasn't it?

Our enemies have disappeared. We now try to blow up tin-pot dictators, integrate enemies to justify our arms spending; but does anybody buy it? This empire, the nuclear empire, has been driven by money and secrecy and lack of

002218

3 accountability. Whenever we had anything remotely approaching a fair fight,  
4 we in the Northwest won it, didn't we? Didn't we? And now what are they  
5 doing? They federalize it, even further remove it, further and further away  
6 from us. And now they let us talk, but they're not listening. So what is our  
7 handle? What is our mechanism? What do they care about, even more than they  
8 care about the coddling and nurturing of the nuclear empire? And the answer  
9 is: this administration cares about the promotion of one Albert Gore.

10 Now as I look out here, I remember what Ralph Nader said. He said, "One  
11 committed activist is worth ten thousand, 20 thousand votes." And we got 500  
12 of ya here. Can we send a message to the real decision-makers in this? In  
13 the Clinton Administration that says Al, we're gonna be watching; we're gonna  
14 be paying attention; we're not gonna forget; we're gonna see what this  
15 administration does to us here. And when you come out here looking for our  
16 support, looking for a polite reception at least, remember us, because we'll  
17 remember you. Thank you.

18 Pat Serie:

19 Robin Klein, Michael Honke, and Chuck Johnson next.

20 Robin Klein:

21 Hi. My name is Robin Klein. I'm with Hanford Action of Oregon. How is it  
22 that we are here today facing the proposed startup of a nuclear reactor in our  
23 region? And of all places at Hanford? We were assured for years that the  
24 only mission at Hanford would be cleanup and that ...

25  
26  
27 **END OF TAPE**

28 Robin Klein:

29 ... which would be close to the melting point at full power and that the  
30 reactor would contain 1400 kilograms of weapons-grade plutonium in a compact  
31 configuration close to prompt criticality. Never mind that FFTF is an  
32 advanced liquid-metal test reactor and that liquid-metal reactors have shown  
33 to be especially dangerous, and that our nation has abandoned its liquid-metal  
34 breeder reactor program. One such European reactor had to be shut down for  
35 severe safety problems and Japan's Monju Reactor had a partial meltdown that  
36 rendered that facility unusable.

37  
38  
39 Never mind in the event of an accidental release, and there have been some at  
40 this facility in the past, the high concentrations of plutonium that would be  
41 used in this reactor would result in higher doses and higher numbers of deaths  
42 and cancers than from a similar release from a conventional nuclear power  
43 plant because of the high toxicity of plutonium. Never mind that we are  
44 wasting precious cleanup money by halting or delaying its closure; money that  
45 could and should be used to protect the Columbia and those of us living  
46 downriver from the volumes of dangerous waste that are making their way there.

47  
48 The 32 million dollars a year that is wasted on this unwanted endeavor  
49 represents a fifth of the entire environmental restoration budget at Hanford.  
50 Never mind that highly dangerous weapons plutonium would be shipped in from

all around the country (across Oregon) en route to Hanford, or that such shipments not only pose risks to the public, but that the state has established a policy that would prohibit the import of such materials. Is anyone paying attention to these policies? And never mind that FFTF and its fuel fabrications sister plant (FMEF) would produce so much waste each year. For more than 20 years, FFTF and FMEF would produce half of all the low-level waste and more than double the transuranic waste that would otherwise be generated at Hanford. Airborne plutonium would also be generated in trace amounts, but given the long half-life of plutonium and the cumulative harmful effects on humans, that would be unacceptable.

Never mind that enormous amounts of dangerous radioactive and toxic wastes have already leaked and now threaten the Columbia River and the health of those downriver. And that there is no safe place to route new high-level waste streams that would be generated, likely destined for the infamous and dangerous waste storage tanks. Never mind that the facilities would run for 20 to 30 years and would not be good for much of anything afterwards, including the manufacture of medical isotopes; or that FFTF is a one of a kind facility that has never been demonstrated capable or safe for such tritium production; or that FFTF, the breeder reactor, would do nothing for reducing the stores of weapons plutonium, but will actually increase risk of proliferations throughout the process.

Never mind all that. But because of all that, and besides all that, the people of this region want this facility shut down once and for all. Is anyone listening at DOE? This message is not new. Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber has now issued as you know a second plea to close down FFTF. Indeed the entire State of Oregon is poised against any proposal to start a reactor, especially FFTF at Hanford. Oregon legislators, as you've heard, both Democrat and Republican voted nearly unanimously last year for a bill that implored the President and U.S. DOE to refrain from any new waste-producing activities at Hanford. The U.S. Congressional delegation from Oregon has called for immediate shutdown of the FFTF in recognition of the Oregon Memorial Bill. Senator Wyden and Congresswoman Furse are about to take a lead and fight FFTF in Congress. And it is arguable indeed that Oregon's opinion should perhaps count most of all. After all, Oregon, unlike Washington, has most of its population and its largest city downriver from Hanford.

Secretary Peña, if public comments mean anything, then you will not allow this facility to be considered for anything other than an expedient and safe closure. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Robin, for the record, you were representing Hanford Action of Oregon, correct? OK. Come up to the microphone. After Michael, Chuck Johnson, and Lloyd Marbet.

Michael Honke:

002220

My name's Michael Honke. I represent Hanford Action, and I'm just amazed at not only the turnout, but the articulate, relevant statements that have been made tonight. I feel blessed that I can come up here and say, I crossed my speech out, it's all been said. Just about. I think that I'd like to approach maybe more philosophically and address the nuclear industry generally, maybe industry generally, but I think it's pretty relevant to FFT today.

It's no mystery to all of us sitting here that the nuclear industries do not possess the ethics or the philosophy to operate activities where the potential for human harm is so great. Based on the history of Hanford, based on the track record of industry wherever it impacts human health, I think we can say this is true. The axiom that I've gotten out of years of studying the track history of Hanford and then using that as a template to understand how industry operates in general in these areas, is that when activities of a government or an industry impacts or threatens to impact health, environment, and economic interests of the greater public, more than often, whether it's because of profit, political power, or desire to avoid responsibility for some harm done, government industry will lie, conspire, fail to disclose information critical to the public (big revelation here, I know), engage in criminal acts, coverups, fraud, harassments of those who opposed the government and industry relationship, falsification of documents relative to public interest, they will manipulate science, they will protect incompetence, and in general and at the very least, abuse public trust.

I think it's a basic idea of business as usual and my basic phrase tonight is that in spite of the claims that we are now moving toward a new era, obviously all of us know that it is business as usual right up to the gates still. My concern mostly right now is that the paradigm the industry has now about low dose radiation should be something we should be considering and if this industry does not change that paradigm, they can never be considered stewards of this technology, ever, ever. They say that, no they've changed, we're beating swords into plow sharers, but FFTF clearly represents a change in this mission.

How can we let an industry back in the driver's seat when they've left a legacy of minimizing the claims of downwinders, harassing whistleblowers who many times, not just a threat of their livelihood, but their lives, have come out to say, hey wait a minute; we think there's something wrong with this. How can we entrust these individuals to make decisions that affect so many of our lives when all they've done is manipulate science and studies. And the gentleman got up here earlier and he said it perfectly, "gamesmanship". That's the message I want to underscore is this gamesmanship that industry employs whenever there's an issue of human health and environment.

What I would like to say to the individuals sitting on the panel here is I really am glad I'm not in your shoes, because you must be sitting there in kind of a rock and a hard space. I mean you must have some potent political and economic interests that you're dealing with, but I really like that



1 Greg Kafoury brought that up; it is economic interest that drives this. They  
2 no longer debate about ideology, that's absolutely right. So with economic  
3 interests and gamesmanship and a disregard of the alternative science view of  
4 low dose, bad mix for anything nuclear at any point that I can perceive.

5  
6 Hanford is a sore on the Northwest; it's a deep wound. And there's a lot of  
7 people who feel that they've paid with their lives and the lives of their  
8 family members, and I can't imagine how anyone could really look at this  
9 logically and reasonably and rationally and say we're gonna dump salt in it.

10  
11 Pat Serie:

12 Chuck, we heard you, but we're going to give you the early slot. Then we have  
13 Lloyd Marbet and Bill Mead; and then after that, Gerry Pollet.

14  
15 Chuck Johnson:

16 My name's Chuck Johnson. I'm from Salem, Oregon, and I'm here representing  
17 Hanford Action of Oregon and also Oregon Peace Works. I'd like to start by  
18 saying that it shouldn't even be necessary for us to be here today opposing  
19 this proposal. Nevertheless, I commend everyone for showing up, once more.  
20 Oregonians have come to a consensus about Hanford. It is that the only focus  
21 of work at Hanford must be cleanup. No new waste-producing activities should  
22 be allowed until the cleanup has been completed. It is from this consensus  
23 that we oppose the restart of the FFTF breeder reactor.

24  
25 Here in Oregon we need to send a message to Washington state. Stop putting us  
26 all at risk for a few jobs, or a few votes, or a few campaign bucks from the  
27 Tri-Cities area. If it's jobs you want, let's work together to retain and  
28 increase our budget for cleanup. With your persistence in creating a bigger  
29 mess at Hanford, you're dividing us and making us less effective in getting  
30 the money we desperately need to stabilize and clean up the waste.

31  
32 Virtually all of the sodium-cooled reactors in the world have not worked or  
33 have been canceled before they were completed. Fermi-1 in the United States  
34 had a meltdown the first day of its operation and never ran it again. Germany  
35 canceled their breeder program; Britain never built a breeder; France built  
36 two breeders: the Phoenix and the Super Phoenix. Neither of them worked.  
37 They both suffered melting and the new French government just finally closed  
38 the door on Super Phoenix, so the French no longer have a breeder program.  
39 Robin just talked about Monju, the great big Japanese breeder that they built  
40 that melted down and they can't operate any more.

41  
42 These things don't work. FFTF began as a test reactor. It was built in 1980,  
43 completed in 1980, was designed to conduct experiments on a small scale to  
44 prepare for the opening of the Clinch River Breeder Reactor. That reactor had  
45 already been canceled at that point by Jimmy Carter, who we must remember at  
46 the time was a very pronuclear power President and a veteran of the nuclear  
47 navy. This was not an antinuclear President, but he closed down the Clinch  
48 River Breeder Reactor which was our attempt to try breeder technology on a  
49 large scale.

002221

1 So to use this failed technology for any mission at all is idiotic. And I  
2 want to bring up one more point here about just the political reality of this  
3 whole project. It's been stated that there are three different ways that have  
4 been proposed to produce tritium and of course many people question whether or  
5 not it was even worthwhile to do it, or even necessary, but this was the least  
6 favorable of the three and I just want to read from the--and politically,  
7 that's even recognized in Congress. This is from the Congressional Record,  
8 Conference Report on HR 1119, the National Defense Authorization Act for  
9 Fiscal Year 1998. This was the Defense Authorization Act that was passed by  
10 Congress this last year.

11  
12 Limitations of availability of funds: The Secretary may not obligate or  
13 expend any funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for  
14 the Department of Energy by this act for the purpose of evaluating or  
15 utilizing any technology for the production of tritium other than a commercial  
16 light water reactor, or an accelerator, until the later of January 31, 1999,  
17 or the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Secretary makes a  
18 final decision on whether or not to continue this reactor, this FFTF reactor.  
19 So even Congress, which obviously wants to produce tritium, sees this as the  
20 least favorable option.

21  
22 Why are we beating this dead horse? Why are we trying to force this thing to  
23 happen? We should be working together, Washington and Oregon, to get Hanford  
24 cleaned up instead of screwing around with these stupid ideas that are being  
25 put forth by the Hanford businesses that are making money on these  
26 technologies. Thank you very much.

27  
28 Pat Serie:

29 OK. We have Lloyd Marbet, Bill Mead, and then Gerry Pollet.

30  
31 Lloyd Marbet:

32 It's impressive and it's an honor to stand in a room with so many caring  
33 people and I thank you for the opportunity to do that. My name is Lloyd  
34 Marbet and I am here representing myself, Don't Waste Oregon, and most of all  
35 Hanford Action of Oregon, and I could name a few other organizations if you  
36 need them. Actually, I intend to go for the five.

37  
38 As many of you know, I have been a long-time anti-nuclear activist. In fact,  
39 it's been so long that I remember when being anti-nuclear was considered  
40 synonymous with being anti-establishment. Now I am almost dazed and feeling a  
41 little like Rip Van Winkle waking up to find testimony from Congressional  
42 representatives and establishment newspapers like the Oregon Business Journal  
43 writing editorials like liars, clearly establishing our government's trail of  
44 lies. I don't know how many of you have read this editorial. I came here  
45 this evening intending to read this editorial but I find, that like the way  
46 most government hearings are going now, we have three or five minutes to speak  
47 and Hanford has forever. And I think it's really outrageous that we find  
48 ourselves as citizens in this kind of dilemma continually, in which we come to  
49 articulate our concerns and our representatives, who are supposed to act as

002222

1 our servants, treat us like we are children to be let out as soon as we can  
2 vent our steam.

3  
4 So I won't read the editorial. I did bring some copies and I'm more than  
5 willing to share it with some of you. But I wanted to share with you  
6 something else that it reminded me of, which I once saw on a men's room wall  
7 at Reed College, of all places. Remember, remember Paul Simon wrote a song  
8 called "Sounds of Silence," in which he said: the words of the prophets are  
9 written on the subway wall. I just happened to see my prophets. There were  
10 apparently several of them that wrote this on Reed College's men's room wall  
11 and this is what they had to say: first they tell you you're wrong and they  
12 can prove it; then they tell you you're right, but it doesn't matter; then  
13 they tell you it matters, but they've known it all along; when they tell you  
14 that they've known it all along, it's too late.

15  
16 I believe, like you, that it's too late to invent another nuclear  
17 waste-producing mission at Hanford. I believe it's too late, like you, to  
18 prop up the production of nuclear weapons in the face of a world desiring to  
19 transform itself into an affirmation of life. What are we going to hear today  
20 from the nuclear industry that we haven't already heard before? What are we  
21 going to tell our government that they haven't also already heard before? How  
22 many more times will we have to testify before we the people are finally  
23 heard?  
24

25  
26 I have just this closing message to Secretary Peña. Secretary Peña, we say to  
27 you: end this now; not tomorrow, not some day in the future, but now. And  
28 please do this on behalf of our children, on behalf of our environment and  
29 life support systems, on behalf of our country and any integrity it might have  
30 left in the future, and on behalf of ourselves.

31 Pat Serie:

32 We have Bill Mead, then Gerry Pollet, and Kristen Beifus?

33  
34 Bill Mead:

35 Hi. Can you hear me? OK. Can you hear me now? My name is Bill Mead. I'm  
36 the Director of Public Safety Resources Agency. I'm also speaking for Hanford  
37 Action and I'm going for the full five minutes because I've been timing this  
38 and DOE got nine minutes and 43 seconds, and Department of Ecology got eight  
39 minutes and two seconds. So let's hear it for the Oregonians here, we're  
40 gonna go for it.

41  
42 All right. I wanna tell you just a couple of things about the Department of  
43 Energy and their history as far as health, safety, and security. I'm glad the  
44 Department of Energy is here because they'll learn something about the safety  
45 of sodium-cooled reactors. There are some things that apparently you don't  
46 know. The majority of the projects that I found on the Department of Energy  
47 are asinine from the standpoints of environmental health, safety, and  
48 security. Second, they don't follow their own established emergency  
49 procedures when an industrial accident occurs. And three, and this is very  
50 important, they have never completed a significant project on time or within

002223

1 their budget unless they change their rules or operating procedures to fudge  
2 the books.

3  
4 Now Hanford's production operations endanger public health and safety. They  
5 actually started their first weapons production reactor before the cooling  
6 system was operational and they won't even acknowledge the valid concerns we  
7 raise about their ability to adequately protect their nuclear weapons products  
8 from theft. If U.S. DOE were to adopt a theme song, I recommend Ravel's  
9 Bolero, because it captures the essence of an agency and a process that is  
10 slow, ponderous, and is permanently off key with respect to the needs and  
11 wishes of the majority of the citizens, not counting the three hour immigrants  
12 who come in from the Tri-Cities, to speak on our time, and then go back to  
13 their reservation.

14  
15 Now December 7, 1987, Portland hosted a Congressional hearing about an  
16 experimental bomb that U.S. DOE wanted to drop on us in the Northwest. They  
17 wanted to convert WPPSS-1 to produce tritium and they wanted to do it by  
18 increasing its fuel core by nearly 25 percent and raising the uranium fuels  
19 enrichment level from the three percent normally used in commercial nuclear  
20 reactors of that design, to increasing it up to 93 percent, even though their  
21 own internal peer review committee said that the configuration could produce a  
22 low-yield nuclear explosion inside the reactor.

23  
24 Now if you like that, and many people out there did, you're gonna love WPPSS  
25 because what they want to do is salvage an experimental breeder reactor that  
26 is cooled by molten sodium that explosively reacts to both air or water. This  
27 reactor was designed in the 1960s, plus you'll hear it is still the  
28 state-of-the-art reactor technology. That it's 1,120 megawatts smaller than  
29 Trojan and that it only needs tweaked just a little bit in order to run  
30 correctly. Road apples. Even if that were possible from a safety aspect,  
31 FFTF is too small to physically to keep up with the scheduled burnup of  
32 surplus plutonium and it's cheaper to buy tritium from Canada's Ontario Hydro  
33 than it is to produce it at Fast Flux Test Facility.

34  
35 Using either of those arguments to justify keeping FFTF online is as  
36 ridiculous as U.S. DOE saying it built the WIPP repository in New Mexico to  
37 bury all of our TRU waste, when the physical size of that repository could  
38 only hold two percent of the nation's volume of TRU waste. OK. You've  
39 probably heard about Fermi-1 reactor. Chuck said something about it. Take  
40 some notes over there, OK? It's a liquid-metal breeder reactor. It was less  
41 than half the size of FFTF and it was projected to cost 62 million dollars.  
42 This sounds almost like a DOE script. It wound up costing 109 million to  
43 build, and then had a catastrophic accident on October 5, 1966, that was so  
44 serious that for nearly an entire month, the Atomic Energy Commission  
45 considered trying to evacuate one and one-half million people from  
46 Detroit, Michigan, located 30 miles away from that reactor. Remember, half  
47 the size of what we're talking about here, 30 miles away from that population  
48 center.  
49

1 The cause of that accident was a piece of metal about the size of a soup can's  
2 top--it floated through the reactor and eventually clogged the sodium coolant  
4 loop, which then raised the reactor fuel's temperature so rapidly that it  
5 burst its cladding and puddled on the floor of the reactor's core.

6 Unidentified person:  
7 Inaudible

8  
9 Bill Mead:

10 OK. I'm just about there. That reactor was never repaired and is now  
11 entombed in a guarded concrete shell just like Chernobyl. Now what's gonna  
12 happen to the Northwest if a similar accident breaches FFTF, which is twice  
13 the size of Fermi-1, and much nearer to population centers?

14  
15 FFTF is a unique reactor. It's the only operating reactor of its type in the  
16 U.S. Yeah, we're talking about salvaging it. We don't even salvage tires to  
17 put on school buses, because we want our kids to be safe. Yet we've got an  
18 entire cult running around here saying "let's go play with the reactor."  
19 Yeah, yeah, yeah, up your breeder, uh huh. If this pipe dream goes through,  
20 we're the ones who are going to get fast fluxed. So I suggest that we change  
21 the name from FFTF to a more appropriate name BOHICA, which means Bend Over  
22 Here It Comes Again.

23  
24 I got a message for the Department of Energy, and I mean both D.C. and the  
25 three hour immigrants that we occasionally see here. OK? It's time to shut  
26 down FFTF, down cold, and put it in a crypt. We don't need it, we don't want  
27 it, so BOHICA yourselves. Go stick this proposal right up there where the sun  
28 don't shine.

29  
30 Pat Serie:

31 We have Gerry Pollet representing Heart of America, then Kristen Beifus and  
32 Bill Bires will be next.

33  
34 Gerald Pollet:

35 Speaking for Heart of America Northwest, I'm going to talk about the Tri-Party  
36 Agreement and a little history. It is incredible to see again the faces in  
37 this room of citizen activists who have been here before, over and over and  
38 over again, and which our children all owe a debt of gratitude. And I want to  
39 thank you all because I think in ten years, in 20 years, your children, my  
40 children will thank you for taking the time to come here tonight. We'll still  
41 be paying for it, so as I said, and you're right, we're still paying for  
42 WPPSS, and my guess is, we'll still be fighting proposals from people like  
43 Ernie Hughes and the FFTF Program Office to restart a reactor or another  
44 nuclear weapons production facility at Hanford.

45  
46 On December 22, the Department of Energy made available recently declassified  
47 documents that show that throughout the 1980s the same people at Hanford were  
48 plotting behind closed doors to make tritium at FFTF and they just stamped  
49 Classified and Secret on those documents. And now the contractor's last hope,  
50 out of all the other facilities that the people in this room and similar rooms

2 over the years have killed, their last hope is FFTF, until they come up with  
3 another pipe dream. How many people came to the public hearings over the  
4 years about their desire and dream to restart the Plutonium Finishing Plant in  
5 the early 1990s to make weapons-grade plutonium? How many of you remember  
6 those hearings?

7 From approximately 1990 through 1994, the Department of Energy wanted to  
8 restart the Plutonium Finishing Plant at Hanford to purify and make more  
9 plutonium for the stockpile. Citizens stopped it eventually. The Department  
10 of Energy through those years refused to agree to put Plutonium Finishing  
11 Plant under the Tri-Party Agreement. They refused to acknowledge that the  
12 potentially catastrophic materials in the plant were subject to dangerous  
13 waste regulation by the State of Washington. They still don't want to agree  
14 to let the State of Washington regulate in that plant. Although when they  
15 finally listened and promised that the plant would never start again, in  
16 January of '94, then the State of Washington, at the same time FFTF was added  
17 to the Hanford cleanup agreement, the Plutonium Finishing Plant was added.

18  
19 The Department of Energy, despite having added the Plutonium Finishing Plant,  
20 says that the plutonium residues mixed with explosive chemicals and sitting  
21 there are not subject to state regulation. The end result of that was last  
22 May an explosion, serious explosion, not nearly as potentially serious though  
23 as the explosion that could happen in that plant; the explosion that we fear  
24 would happen if they restarted it. That explosion happened and despite the  
25 fact that facility is now, quote, under the TPA, when it happened, the U.S.  
26 Department of Energy did two things that scared the hell out of me when I  
27 hear, "Oh well, we'll agree to have something about FFTF's environmental  
28 performance regulated by the state," cause they have no intention of agreeing  
29 to that.

30  
31 Bottom line is, they did two things. One, despite the fact that the materials  
32 exploded, they still deny that they were dangerous wastes subject to dangerous  
33 waste regulation. Secondly, when the Department of Ecology's inspectors the  
34 next morning showed up to enter the plant, what did the Department of Energy  
35 do? They closed the gates and denied them entry.

36  
37 You delete FFTF, we will have no external regulation. They're not going to  
38 agree unless we start right now and change the TPA to cover the plutonium, to  
39 cover everything about that reactor, and every potential scenario. They will  
40 never roll over and allow us to regulate it, they will not allow us to  
41 regulate their spent nuclear fuel which is the most dangerous spent nuclear  
42 fuel that will ever have been created in the United States probably.

43  
44 The documents they put out here today, they don't want you to know about it.  
45 They don't disclose that they're going to have 66 metric tons of the most  
46 deadly, unstable, spent nuclear fuel high-level nuclear waste ever created in  
47 the nation because of its plutonium content. So what do we want? The  
48 Department of Ecology needs to get its backbone back up. We gotta put back  
49 together the TPA, gotta put it back together, we gotta demand that instead of

the program advocate coming to these meetings, that the higher ups with decision-making authority get their butts here for BOHICA.

I don't have faith in this man. Excuse me, but they said there are no classified documents about FFTF. It turns out there's 77 classified documents about FFTF, including a document that U.S. DOE informed us today, they will not give us any of the background safety information about, stamped Secret, Classified, Restricted Data, that shows there were exposures from tritium due to FFTF-related operations and its fuel supply that exceeded the maximum permissible public exposure for tritium. That the worker exposure calculations also exceeded permissible levels, and guess what? They stamped it Secret. This wasn't the stuff from the '40s and the '50s and the '60s. This was in the 1980s, kept secret from you and me into the 1990s, and when you ask for this stuff so you can have an informed discussion about regulation of the FFTF reactor and its safety record today during this comment period, Mr. Hughes and his project office has said you'll get it after the decision making is all done. Thank you; maybe; possibly. Instead they sent us a box of documents they knew we already had, and said, oh go home, but we're not giving you the stuff you want.

So what do we want? Instead of exempting FFTF from the TPA, let's go back and demand that the Tri-Party Agreement require the Department of Energy to repay to the cleanup account 32 million dollars a year for each of the next three years so that they repay the money they've been stealing from the cleanup account. Take it out of his budget for the next three years. He's taking it out of the things you care about, including the things that protect our river, and will save lives. Secondly, they've dropped the cleanup budget by 32 million for '99, breaking their explicit promise in the Tri-Party Agreement as it stands right now that they'll reinvest those savings from the reactor's decommissioning into cleanup, raising the budget 32 million. In other words, we're essentially losing twice as much money as we're talking about. And the TPA, the State of Washington, needs to say pay it back. Thirdly, we need the Tri-Party Agreement to flat out say we will ban the import of all plutonium and wastes, and the creation of new wastes from these operations.

Go to any facility at Hanford, which is not in full compliance with our state laws and the Tri-Party Agreement. The bottom line, folks, is they ain't got such a facility. There isn't one facility that they've got that can meet that test at Hanford; and so while they're out of compliance, let's tell them they can't bring it in. And that's a reasonable, rational thing to open up the Tri-Party Agreement negotiations for, instead of exempting FFTF.

Pat Serie:

OK. Thank you, Gerry. We have Kristen Beifus and Bill Bires and Vera Dafoe, please.

Kristen Beifus:

Hi. I'm Kristen Beifus and I'm with the Government Accountability Project, but I'm not going to be here the whole five minutes. I'm from Washington and I wanted to say I was completely overwhelmed by listening to the Oregon

002224

1 delegation and I wish that Governor Gary Locke and Senator Patty Murray were  
2 here to listen what their counterparts in Oregon are saying. It is truly  
3 incredible. So despite the overwhelming expert opinion that we've been  
4 listening to here tonight about FFTF's technical problems, advocates of  
5 restarting FFTF have skirted a pretty formidable obstacle. The Washington  
6 State Department of Ecology has tentatively approved DOE's request to remove  
7 milestones in the Tri-Party Agreement, which regulates the decommissioning and  
8 the cleanup of the reactor. This is of great concern to the Government  
9 Accountability Project, as well as to all of us here in the Pacific Northwest,  
10 because this is the only leverage that we as citizens in the Northwest have to  
11 force the Department of Energy to fulfill its commitment to cleanup Hanford.  
12

13 The Department of Energy has proven to the Northwest time and time again that  
14 it needed its hand held through this process, and even with us holding their  
15 hands, things happen like the explosion this May at the Plutonium Finishing  
16 Plant. However, at Hanford it's been slow, institutional cultural change has  
17 been slow. Saving the free world is a great motivator in the production  
18 years. Cleanup, however, has proven to be both harder to rally around and  
19 more technically challenging. Two-thirds of the nation's high-level nuclear  
20 waste sits in the aging single-shelled underground storage tanks; one-third of  
21 which leak ...  
22

23 Unidentified person:  
24 Inaudible  
25

26 Kristen Beifus:

27 Thank you. ... posing a truly daunting environmental remediation problem and  
28 one which to-date has been met with mismanagement, delays, and sometimes  
29 questionable science.  
30

31 Indeed the cleanup mission has limped along under an ever-shrinking budget and  
32 even more unscrupulous contractors more concerned with perpetuating their  
33 contract than they are with cleaning up the site. In fiscal year '98, the  
34 program managing the disposition of high-level tank waste has a 70 million  
35 dollar shortfall. However, the Department of Energy is eager to invest half a  
36 billion dollars to get FFTF up and running. The restart of FFTF for tritium  
37 production and DOE's clear preference for production over cleanup, as  
38 evidenced by their budgetary priorities, undermines any progress in changing  
39 the production-minded culture at Hanford.  
40

41 The DOE's recent acknowledgement that the groundwater of Hanford is  
42 contaminated and heading for the Columbia, highlights the danger of a  
43 pro-production mentality. Adding insult to injury is the fact that 32 million  
44 dollars a year of Hanford's diminutive cleanup budget is spent to keep FFTF in  
45 hot standby in preparation for a new production mission that might only  
46 provide a quick fix for the apparent need the Department of Energy thinks we  
47 have for tritium. The unfortunate thing is the waste will be permanent.  
48 Thank you.  
49  
50



1 Pat Serie:

2 Mr. Bires. We're gonna have Vera Dafoe and Reed Behrens.

4 Bill Bires:

002225

5 My name is Bill Bires. I'm a member of Hanford Watch and also a member of the  
6 Northwest Veterans for Peace, and I'm astounded that we're all in this room  
7 because some unnamed private company wrote a letter to the Secretary of the  
8 Department of Energy. It's just beyond me. If you people, any of you people,  
9 seen "Wag the Dog?" That's what we are; this is Wag the Dog. I don't know  
10 what the hell's going on. I don't have a vested interest in what goes on up  
11 there at Hanford as far as economics are concerned. I have a vested interest  
12 in that I have children that live here, I have grandchildren that live here, I  
13 have great grandchildren that live here, and I want this to be a decent place  
14 for them to live. I don't want them to live in a polluted atmosphere that is  
15 instigated by some private company. We got, now you have a situation where  
16 you're gonna have a private company producing bomb-enhancing material for the  
17 military. Something wrong. You know this whole thing at Hanford is really,  
18 just puzzles me. When we have a cleanup project that seems to have a  
19 half-life equal to that of plutonium.

20  
21 This is going on forever. If the FFTF issue wasn't an important issue, why  
22 was it included in the Tri-Party Agreement? Why was it addressed by the  
23 Tri-Party Agreement? It seems to me that the people that were putting the  
24 Tri-Party Agreement together, they had an interest in the Fast Flux Test  
25 Facility and they addressed the issue. Now, all of a sudden it's not  
26 important because it's been taken out of your hands. I just have a heck of a  
27 time with that. Hanford was referred to as a sore. I refer to it as a dung  
28 heap. It's a dung heap in our mist and there are those that want to go out  
29 and continue to stir around in that dung heap. Unfortunately, I live  
30 downstream from that dung heap and I resent having to live in the awful,  
31 o-f-f-a-l from that ...

32  
33 END OF TAPE

34  
35 Bill Bires:

002225

36 ... any idea, or any consideration given for the restart of the Fast Flux Test  
37 Facility. Thank you.

38  
39 Pat Serie:

40 Vera Dafoe. Then we'll have Reed Behrens and Donald Fontenot.

002226

41  
42 Vera Dafoe:

43 Hello. I'm Vera Dafoe and I'm speaking for myself. And I was born here and I  
44 live here, and I'm not from you know where. I'm glad to be amongst the many  
45 like-minded people, but unfortunately, we're not the decision-makers in this  
46 issue, so it's pretty serious. My testimony could be summed up in one word  
47 and that word would be no, and there wouldn't be anything else to say.  
48 Unfortunately, somebody would probably misinterpret that, too. So I have to  
49 say a few other words.

1 I believe that almost all the citizens in Oregon and Washington, and probably  
2 Idaho, don't want anything going on at Hanford, anything more than want it  
3 cleaned up and be done with it. Most of us wish the whole thing would just  
4 disappear, in fact. The idea of getting more things happening is just  
5 unbelievable, you know, like a bad dream.  
6

7 We would like to have Hanford shut down completely. That doesn't even seem  
8 very strange. We would like that enormous mess cleaned up and contain  
9 whatever they have to leave there for a while, quite a while. We would like  
10 the Hanford cleanup funding used for cleaning up Hanford. That's doesn't seem  
11 very strange, but of course somehow that's not what's happening. We were told  
12 tonight to discuss the Tri-Party Agreement, so I'll say some words on that  
13 one. We want the provisions that were in it continued; we want no revisions  
14 made like the ones we're hearing about tonight. We would like to return the  
15 FFTF to the deactivation mode and we would like to get on with the cleanup.  
16 That's all I have to say.  
17

18 Pat Serie:

19 Let me ask a schedule question here for a second. We are approximately  
20 one-quarter of the way through our list. We are scheduled to stop now, which  
21 we're not going to do. Do we need a seven minute break? Can we just do a  
22 rolling, rolling? You must be Reed Behrens. Mr. Behrens. OK. But we  
23 promised a rolling break. So if you need to get up from your seat, please  
24 feel free. But we're going to keep forging ahead, and Mr. Behrens. You're  
25 representing the Oregon Clean Water Coalition?

26  
27 Reed Behrens:

28 Yes. Thank you. So my ten year old and I were trying to figure out how long  
29 a hundred thousand years actually is. Those figures get batted around fairly  
30 casually and so this is for those who can read--this is the nuclear industry's  
31 hundred thousand years of plutonium radioactivity; and here's today 2000 AD;  
32 and then here's 15000 BC when the glaciers receded; and when some say when the  
33 Columbia Gorge blew through. So here, right here, here is the pyramids in  
34 Egypt; and then here's the Roman Empire; and here's the birth of Christ;  
35 here's the United States formed in 2000 AD. We are creating wastes that are  
36 gonna be radioactive ... this is 30,000 years, 80,000 years, 100,000 years ...  
37 over here ... Thank you very much. You guys can sit down; thank you.  
38

39 In a candid admission by one of the officials at Chernobyl when asked the  
40 question, what was the cause, what caused Chernobyl to melt down? He said,  
41 intellectual arrogance. So I'd like to talk a little bit more about the  
42 larger picture of what's happening in the nuclear industry and how it relates  
43 to Hanford and some of my thoughts on what is really going on. I'm going to  
44 take something from the "Public Citizen," a Ralph Nader's group most recent  
45 issue and I'd like to introduce you if you're not already familiar with the  
46 Nuclear Energy Institute, which has 354 U.S. companies as members and an  
47 annual operating budget of 27 million dollars. It is the chief architect of  
48 the nuclear industry's lobbying strategy. The nuclear industry has long  
49 wanted to move waste from existing nuclear power plants because the waste has  
50 become a public relations nightmare. Moving it, however, poses more risk and

1 is more expensive than leaving it onsite until a permanent solution can be  
2 found.

3  
4 So, I also would like to bring to, up to light, the fact that when the United  
5 States disseminated these technologies years ago, because other nations were  
6 very reticent about the waste problem, what are we going to do with the waste?  
7 We all agreed by treaty to take back waste from other countries. And we don't  
8 have a place for those wastes yet, but we're looking for a place that can  
9 conveniently take wastes from other countries that would have a very (probably  
10 by ship) somewhere we could get a lot of nuclear waste by ship to be stored  
11 somewhere.  
12

13 Once this waste starts moving around, we've got food irradiation on the next  
14 line and it's all waiting to be moved around. And so there's a lot more  
15 riding on this than just what's happening at Hanford, although Hanford is a  
16 very critical element in this whole strategy. And added to this, when the  
17 cold war ended the Soviet Union, China, and the United States, the nuclear  
18 engineers all have formed a cabal, a group of people that are now all working  
19 for the promotion of nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is not a jobs program,  
20 you know? These are brilliant people. I have great respect for their  
21 learning and their erudition, but there are other things that they can be  
22 doing. And in specific, the DOE should face the fact that nuclear power and  
23 weapons spending has been a colossal mistake, waste of money and engineering  
24 talent, and should begin to retrain engineers in among other things  
25 alternative energy fields. And I made this point to the retired president of  
26 OSU last week, John Bern. Many people aren't aware that OSU is developing the  
27 next generation of safe nuclear reactors and is getting large amounts of  
28 funding to employ more professors in the field and to get more nuclear  
29 engineers into the field. More work there. There were a lot of other things,  
30 I implored him to at least have OSU have an alternative energy program. The  
31 Japanese and the Germans are going to beat us to the punch. The future lies  
32 in alternative energy, not in nuclear power.  
33

34 If all of the great minds who were diverted in the nuclear engineering and  
35 worked on solar panels and energy efficiency, we wouldn't need nuclear power  
36 in the first place. Since 1950, we have spent as much on nuclear research as  
37 could be used to rebuild the entire infrastructure of this country, all of the  
38 highways, bridges, airports, tunnels, roads, etc. DOE funding could be better  
39 spent retraining nuclear engineers to work in the fields of free energy, Tesla  
40 coils, hydrogen vehicle, electric cars, mass transits, solar energy plants,  
41 wind turbines, energy efficiency, etc. Search the internet under free energy,  
42 it's all there.  
43

44 We should give these gentlemen, they have kids they want to send to college,  
45 they have families they need to take care of, we should give them an out.  
46 There should be funds provided for these people to transit into new, new more  
47 productive fields. And I will, I'm so grateful that what Senator Hatfield  
48 said that I will reiterate in a more pointed way, that in a 100 years, how  
will human beings look at our generation? We're creating a tax liability and

1 an environmental liability that lasts 20 times longer than since the fall of  
2 the Roman Empire. How are we going to be viewed by these people? Thank you.  
3

4 Pat Serie:

5 ... know Donald Fontenot? Susan Sheets, and then Steve Abeling ...  
6 Donald Fontenot here? Nope? ... Steve Abeling? How should I say it?  
7

8 Steve Abeling:

9 Steve Abeling. Icicle mechanics, citizen activist, Oregon native. Four quick  
10 points: don't eliminate the TPA milestone; put the TPA back together; proceed  
11 with immediate total shutdown of the FFTF; deactivate it and clean it up with  
12 all possible speed. Two, DOE needs tritium for hydrogen bombs to replace what  
13 decays in a level of ineffectiveness. As was already said, the tritium supply  
14 is reduced by one-half every 12.3 years.  
15

002228

16 As a child of the atomic age, I'm in favor of total world nuclear disarmament;  
17 therefore, I believe no more tritium should be produced in the world for  
18 weapons so that all hydrogen bombs will eventually become inoperable and  
19 obsolete. So I repeat, shut down and clean up the FFTF.  
20

21 Three, this proposal, proposal is a radioactive pork barrel for the nuclear  
22 industry. I want the radioactive hazards from Hanford reduced and cleaned up  
23 as much as possible so our health can be protected. I don't want more  
24 production of high-level nuclear waste. Around 66 metric tons would be  
25 produced if the FFTF is operated as proposed for 20 to 30 years. Production  
26 of the toxic wastes will cost billions to begin with and then more billions to  
27 deal with afterwards. And, as has been shown, only radioactive decay over  
28 tens of thousands of years, far longer than current recorded history,  
29 ultimately reduces its danger. And for a 100 million dollars that's been  
30 stolen from the Hanford cleanup to keep the FFTF on hot standby--DOE must pay  
31 back to Hanford cleanup funds what has been spent maintaining hot standby at  
32 the FFTF and in the process completely shut down FFTF with all possible,  
33 please. Thank you.  
34

35 Pat Serie:

36 OK. We have Kelly Brignell and Althea Halvorson and Mary Sievertsen.  
37 Kelly Brignell. Nope? OK. Althea Halvorson..  
38

39 Althea Halvorson:

40 I'm here as a private person; also a member of Women's International League  
41 for Peace and Freedom. I want to say right off from the start that I'm an  
42 82-year old woman with a closed mind. My remarks are going to be very brief  
43 because all of the reasons have been very, very carefully said about the  
44 reasons for not building any more nuclear weapons. But from my closed-mind  
45 viewpoint, it is morally, ethically, indefensible to build or to use nuclear  
46 weapons. Thank you.  
47  
48

002229

1 Inaudible

3 Unidentified person:

4 I just want to make a quote, as well as I can remember it, from  
5 Albert Einstein who said, you cannot simultaneously plan for peace and prepare  
6 for war.

002230

8 Pat Serie:

9 Mr. Wilson? Is there a William L. Wilson here? Go ahead, Mr. Wilson ...

11 William L. Wilson:

12 I know I'm preaching the converted so I'll just say a couple things. I find  
13 it extremely farcical that this whole thing is built on the premise that we're  
14 trying to keep up with the Russians. And the second thing I want to say is  
15 that I find it also farcical that we're working on a project to bring in more  
16 plutonium when we're already now spending 32 million dollars a year on what we  
17 already have.

002231

19 Pat Serie:

20 Stephen Keiplan and Breena Satterfield, please.

22 Paige Leven:

23 OK. I will keep this really quick, but before I start my testimony I just  
24 want to say two things. First of all, I see the room thinning out and I know  
25 you all are probably about as hungry as I am. So if your stomach gets the  
26 better of you and you leave before it's your turn to comment, please take a  
27 couple of minutes to jot down your comments. Because whether they're written  
28 or oral, whether you are first or last on the list, what you have to say is  
29 just as important to the Department of Ecology and to the Department of  
30 Energy. And so we really need your comments regardless of whether or not you  
31 want to stay till midnight or not. Secondly, we had a couple purses that were  
32 left in the other room after the pre-meeting workshop, so I just want to make  
33 sure whoever's they were got those back.

002232

35 OK. So my comments. Because I think the concerns of safety factors and  
36 environmental factors and the concerns for the misuse in the diversion of  
37 cleanup funds have been very, very well stated by so many people before me,  
38 I'm gonna direct my comments at the Department of Ecology. I want to say that  
39 I think it has been at the very best a mistake and at the worst nothing less  
40 than a complete cop-out for them to have deleted the milestones from the TPA  
41 that they are responsible for enforcing before getting a response from the  
42 people who they are supposed to be responsible to. And then, they then tell  
43 us, they turn around and tell us, that they're listening to us, but they  
44 refuse to give us any sort of quantifiable measurement as to what sort of  
45 reaction we're gonna have to show them in order for them to listen to us, in  
46 order for us to get them to do their job, and to enforce the very cleanup  
47 commitment that the Department of Energy has made.

49 By deleting the milestones, the Department of Ecology, you guys, have given up  
50 your very best leverage to stop the FFTF reactor when the people that you're

2 supposed to be working for demand it. You've sidestepped your responsibility  
3 to the people, to all of us, and to making sure that Hanford is cleaned up as  
4 the commitment has been laid out before us in the Tri-Party Agreement. And  
5 I'm just here to beg you to do your job and be responsible at making sure that  
6 the Tri-Party Agreement is enforced. Don't throw away your responsibility,  
7 please.

8 Pat Serie:

9 Stephen Keiplan is next; then we have Breena Satterfield and Josiah Hill.

10  
11 Stephen Keiplan:

12 Let me just introduce myself so you know a little bit where my comments are  
13 coming from. I'm a free lance researcher and writer specializing in  
14 environmental issues. Currently, I'm working with Dr. Brian O'Leary, an  
15 astrophysicist who was once on the Cornell University Faculty with Carl Sagan,  
16 and also a former Apollo astronaut. We're working together to prepare a  
17 comprehensive survey of the latest developments in research in new energy  
18 resources.

19  
20 We had a former speaker speak about the research that's going on in the whole  
21 area of new energy, free energy. These are unconventional sources energy  
22 beyond the conventional alternative energy, such as solar and wind, and so  
23 forth. There's tremendous developments that are going on in this field and  
24 you have a government and a Department of Energy that is fighting these  
25 developments. Some of these developments are in the area of cold fusion! You  
26 may have heard from the press, which has been, had a distorted picture of this  
27 because of the scientific establishment, that cold fusion is a dead letter.  
28 Quite the contrary, over 200 laboratories in the United States and elsewhere  
29 have come up with findings confirming the validity of original  
30 Ponds-Fleischman research. Moreover, several companies have created prototype  
31 units that can be purchased by scientists and others, and in the very near  
32 future commercial-scale units will be released to the public.

33  
34 But what relevance does this have to Hanford in this whole question of nuclear  
35 waste? One of the serendipitous results of research on low-energy nuclear  
36 reactions is the startling discovery that during the operation of these new  
37 energy processes, transmutation of elements occurs. Successful experiments  
38 have shown it is even possible to reverse the radioactivity of nuclear waste  
39 through these processes. This research is in the early stages of development  
40 and full-fledged technology could be created with adequate public and private  
41 investment. However, the Department of Energy, which has shown its incredible  
42 wisdom with this issue that we're discussing tonight, is also blocking  
43 research in this area and it's vital that it go forward. What's even more  
44 interesting is this same stream of research, out of the same stream of  
45 research, have come experiments that indicate that we can produce tritium  
46 through low-energy nuclear reaction processes, safe processes. The major  
47 study on the tritium production comes from the government's own Los Alamos  
48 Laboratory. Other studies have confirmed the positive results of this study.

1 Does it make any sense to investigate, or does it not make sense to  
2 investigate in greater depth the government's own research on alternative  
3 methods of tritium production, as well as research on the reversal of  
4 radioactive waste, rather than going through this absurd process that they're  
5 proposing? There's certainly, if we have to produce tritium, and I personally  
6 don't believe we should produce it all, but if they feel that they have to  
7 produce it, there are less costly and safer ways to produce it. And  
8 responsible public officials will follow up their own research at Los Alamos  
9 and elsewhere to come up with a solid answer to this question. Members of the  
10 public concerned with nuclear safety will be watching to see if the Department  
11 of Energy takes this prudent approach. We'll also be calling upon our elected  
12 officials to make sure the DOE behaves responsibly.  
13

14 I will be submitting documents for the record here that go into this research  
15 and the background of it and I only hope and pray that before I have to go sit  
16 in to block trucks, and anything starting this crazy process up in Hanford,  
17 that the DOE officials will begin to look at their own research and start  
18 taking another path. Otherwise, I'll be on the streets.  
19

20 Pat Serie:

21 OK. We have Breena Satterfield, then Josiah Hill, and Bert Hansen, please.  
22

23 Breena Satterfield:

24 I'm here on behalf of my granddaughter and grandson, and I'm conveying their  
25 remarks which we had during a discussion yesterday about why I would be here  
26 instead of cooking dinner for them tonight. And they asked me to say that the  
27 Department of Energy should first clean up its room before they undertake any  
28 further projects. Thank you.  
29

30 Pat Serie:

31 Josiah Hill and Mr. Hansen. We'll then have Mary Mayther-Slac and Mary Rose.  
32

33 Josiah Hill:

34 Good evening. I'm Josiah Hill, President of the Oregon Chapter of Physicians  
35 for Social Responsibility. Thank you from my Chapter. I'm here to speak as a  
36 medical professional, deeply concerned about the long-term public and  
37 environmental health. Any discussion of jobs resulting from the Fast Flux  
38 Test Facility restart is far outweighed by long-term serious public health  
39 problems. Tritium production at Hanford would involve the production of large  
40 amounts of new high-level nuclear waste containing to up to 40 percent  
41 weapons-grade plutonium. According to a report commissioned by International  
42 Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, of which PSR is a United States  
43 affiliate, also IPPNW won the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize, plutonium poses an  
44 extraordinarily dangerous threat to health. As an emitter of alpha particles  
45 is readily absorbed, and when inhaled as fine particles, lingers in the body  
46 for decades and is probably the most carcinogenic substance known. The  
47 backers of FFTF have greatly exaggerated the demand for medical isotopes. The  
48 Institute of Medicine, a Federal Advisory Panel, called a market analyses used  
49 by FFTF's backers speculative at best and found no grounds to recommend that  
50 reactors such as fast flux produce medical isotopes.

1 Physicians for Social Responsibility is an organization committed to public  
2 health through the elimination of nuclear weapons. Restarting the FFTF to  
3 produce tritium threatens the opportunity for effective disarmament agreements  
4 by sending a signal that the United States is more interested in maintaining a  
5 huge nuclear arsenal than working to make treaties, such as the Comprehensive  
6 Test Ban and the Nonproliferation Treaty, a reality.

7  
8 As medical professionals, we firmly oppose the proposed change of the  
9 Tri-Party Agreement. We strongly support unwavering progress without new  
10 waste production for the cleanup of Hanford, for the children of the next  
11 century. I'm reminded of the words of one of my favorite entertainers,  
12 Stevie Wonder: We are amazed, but not amused, by all the things you say  
13 you'll do. Thank you.

14  
15 Pat Serie:

16 I'm sorry. I missed Bert Hansen before, and here he is. And then it will be  
17 Mary Mayther-Slac and Mary Rose.

18  
19 Bert Hansen:

20 Good evening. A gentleman came up earlier and he talked about Wag the Dog. I  
21 never thought of it that way, but that truly is why we're here. Does anybody  
22 know who's wagging us? Evidently some corporation, somebody has submitted a  
23 proposal to Department of Energy. Do you know who submitted the proposal? Or  
24 can you not tell us?

25  
26 Unidentified person:

27 ... I know it's Advanced Medical Nuclear Systems, AMNS, and they went belly up  
28 ... by other contractors ... Hanford contractors have signed an agreement  
29 amongst themselves picking up the support cause and we ... Freedom of  
30 Information Act request for this grievance ... after this process ... till  
31 after this process is done ...

32  
33 Ernie Hughes:

34 ... Mr. Pollet is talking about the inept ... FOIA ... a request that he  
35 submitted about a week ago. Part of, and I can't tell you a percentage, have  
36 been made available. A lot of the documents are publicly available. The  
37 other documents are being collected to provide to Heart of America and there's  
38 no reason to delay, other than the time to collect the documents, reproduce  
39 them, and send them. ... There is no insidious plot ... I can't tell ya,  
40 that's not my department, I can't tell you exactly when, but he'll have them  
41 as soon as we can collect them. I'll tell you that.

42  
43 Pat Serie:

44 Can we have Mr. Hansen proceed?

45  
46 Bert Hansen:

47 No. I'm enjoying this.

002236

002207

002236



Gerald Pollet:

Surely, Mr. Hughes, it doesn't take more than between now and say the end of business Friday, to collect those contracts and agreements and the expenses to-date. You know what you sent me was BS. You sent me the publicly available Annual Environmental Report for the Site, which you know is ... dollars and cents committee I have urged be eliminated because it has hardly any useful information and is all gone through and selectively abused. So why don't you answer the question, Mr. Hughes? Things like the contracts and the cost expenses of the program to-date, and the contractors that they've incurred, including their expenses in going back to D.C. and pitching this. Are those things readily available? Close of business Friday? And what about the related documents to human-exposure from the classified documents? Make a commitment, you're the program manager.

00220'7

Ernie Hughes:

All I was saying was the documents that we made available will be collected at the earliest opportunity and made available. I can't give a date; I can't give a date. That's it; I can't give a date. Let that be on the record.

Gerald Pollet:

These people work for you and they are contractors to you and you don't have the ability to give a date as to time, certain, when they will provide the contracts ...

00220'7

Pat Serie:

... No.

Gerald Pollet:

That is not acceptable, Pat. He's, he's the program manager and I'm asking if he's responsible? Can he give a date?

00220'7

Pat Serie:

And he said no; he said as soon as possible.

Gerald Pollet:

I want to hear in his words.

00220'7

Pat Serie:

That's what he said; that's what he said.

Bert Hansen:

OK? So you can't tell us who's wagging the dog.

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Ernie Hughes:

No, well, wait, wait. I'm not going to get drawn into a facetious argument. I know you don't like what we do; there's no issue about that. Mr. Pollet made a FOIA request; it's being handled up there. We will get the information and we will provide the information. And there's no, there's no plan to hold back the information until after these public meetings. There's no point in

1 it. We are glad to make available the public information as fast as we can.  
2 But it was a large request and it came in a week ago.

3  
4 Gerald Pollet:

5 ... absurd. It came in the 5th to you and it was included things that are  
6 readily, readily available to you and you could make the effort. I mean, you  
7 even denied us the opportunity of ... you didn't want us to have a copy of the  
8 ... November 22nd Technical Information Document ...  
9

10 Pat Serie:

11 Gerry, do you think this, this is ... can you let the format proceed, please?  
12 Thank you. Mr. Hansen, please ...  
13

14 Bert Hansen:

15 I just wanted to say that I'm not affiliated with an organization. I heard  
16 about this on the radio. It sounded so crazy I had to come down here. And  
17 it's great to see so many people. I don't know why there aren't two hundred  
18 thousand people here. Well, there's three more meetings, so I guess I'm  
19 driving to Hood River. Hopefully I'll see you guys there.  
20

21 Pat Serie:

22 We will ... Mary Rose, Rudi Nussbaum, and Jeff Davies.  
23

24 Mary Mayther-Slac:

25 When I signed up to testify, I wasn't sure what I was going to say. I'm still  
26 not. I decided that I'd let my heart take its lead and one thing I can say is  
27 shame on you. I can't believe that no one's even considered saying anything  
28 about accountability. Shame on you. And I have a young son and I hope he  
29 will have children some day. And I don't know if you guys have kids, but,  
30 shame on you. I, as far as my opinion about the Tri-Party Agreement, I can't  
31 even believe that we would even consider not holding true to an agreement that  
32 you people agreed to. This is ludicrous, it's unfair, it's criminal, it's  
33 evil. I can't believe that there's no control, that people don't just come up  
34 and storm your offices and say, I mean, where the hell did Hazel O'Leary get  
35 off deciding by unilaterally to change the rules in midstream. I don't want  
36 any more nuclear weapons. I know that there's a place for you to get more  
37 isotopes that's less expensive and my heart goes out to those people with  
38 prostate cancer who need those isotopes and I want them to have them. But,  
39 we're human beings and we have a planet here that's in a very delicate  
40 balance.  
41

42 Whatever this man's belief is, I respect it. And I know that what we believe  
43 to be true in our hearts is that we only have one planet and we can only  
44 pollute it so much before it fights back and we kill ourselves by our own  
45 results; and I just say shame on you.  
46

47 Pat Serie:

48 Mary Rose, Mary Rose.  
49  
50

1 Mary Rose:

2 I'm here representing myself and also as a member of WILPF, Women's  
3 International League for Peace and Freedom. Barbara Dragoo was able to write  
4 this but I'm reading it for her and it has my sentiments, too. Recently we  
5 had a visitor from Australia who told us of the fear and anger that people who  
6 are citizens of other countries feel towards our government's power plays. It  
7 is not difficult for me to imagine that citizens of other nations see the  
8 United States as a bully. How can a nation that has signed a Comprehensive  
9 Test Ban Treaty and START II and START III, engage in producing materials to  
10 enhance the power of nuclear weapons.

002238

11  
12 How can we justify using money needed for cleaning up the terrible  
13 contamination at Hanford to prepare for the production of even more powerful  
14 weapons materials in a facility that has a high risk for explosion? Many  
15 people can be employed for many years in a sincere effort to clean up this  
16 mess. The lives and well being of all living creatures in the large  
17 surrounding vicinity can possibly be protected by directing a genuine clean up  
18 project; maybe even the quality of the water that flows into the Columbia  
19 River could be improved. The fears of others living on this planet could be  
20 alleviated and sincere cooperation between nations could result from seeing  
21 the most powerful nation demonstrate by action that the signatures on treaties  
22 really means something.

23  
24 Investing in the production of more nuclear materials such as tritium and MOX  
25 is a misuse of taxpayers dollars in a society that is failing to recognize its  
26 financial responsibility to the most vulnerable among its citizens. In the  
27 interest of peace and the well being of all living things, do not put Hanford  
28 back in the nuclear production business. Thank you.

29  
30 Pat Serie:

31 Mr. Nussbaum. We have then Jeff Davies, Dave Hysko, Kristin Mikalson-Mangino.

32  
33 Rudi Nussbaum:

34 It should be sufficient to speak as a citizen, but previous experiences have  
35 taught me that I better tell some of the scientists and so-called experts that  
36 are paid for by the DOE, or at least are sponsored by the DOE, that when  
37 citizens speak out with feelings and with common sense, they have as much  
38 right to do so as those experts. But I will give you my qualifications, just  
39 on the record, so you can't accuse me that I don't know what I am talking  
40 about. I'm a retired professor of physics at Portland State University. I  
41 have numerous publications in fundamental science and I have numerous  
42 publications in international and national scientific journals refereed on the  
43 health effects of low-level radiation and radioactive fallout and so forth.  
44 So I know what I am talking about.

002239

45  
46 If a citizen has a leaking septic tank and continues to use his toilet and has  
47 the environment continually further de-fouled, then I would have hoped that  
48 people from the Department of Ecology would cite him, or do we believe that  
49 they don't? When the Department of Energy does that, then there's no asylum  
50 that could hold it, so we allow it to do exactly that. And for those people

2 that want to promote this wonderful thing, the medical isotopes, for the  
3 benefit of mankind, which by the way is scientifically is not a totally clear  
4 cut issue; some isotopes are useful and a lot them do a lot of harm.

5 Let me tell you something about science that you can put in the record. In  
6 1992, there appeared an article, Nuclear Installations and Childhood Cancer in  
7 the UK. It's an article that was published in a very respected journal, "The  
8 Science of Total Environment." Anybody who wants the citation, I can give it  
9 to them. Let me tell you that this study that compared the health of the  
10 citizens surrounding these UK nuclear installations, if you look at the seven  
11 installations in the United Kingdom that were in operation before 1955, the  
12 one operation, that is one of the main producers of radioisotopes for medical  
13 and research, uses the firm Amersham that I myself have ordered isotopes from,  
14 and anybody that has done any trace of work is very familiar with that one  
15 installation, Amersham, has the highest statistical, statistically significant  
16 excess of childhood leukemia in the surroundings; childhood leukemia, both in  
17 incidents in mortality between or below the age of nine. Put that in your  
18 beautiful full-color advertisement for medical isotope production at Hanford,  
19 please.

20  
21 Inaudible

22  
23 Unidentified person:

24 Hello. For the record, TPA should stand; that's a joke ... I'd like to thank  
25 everybody. It's been an incredible evening here. This is a new issue to me.  
26 I'm very new to Portland and it's been pretty, an amazing evening for an  
27 unfortunate purpose for a meeting. I'd just like to thank the activists who  
28 got me here, on KVEW radio, and keep it up, people listen. They listen, so  
29 keep speaking. I think when people find out that they're actually going to  
30 fire up a reactor, I think they're gonna go ballistic. So keep talking, and  
31 carpools--if you are going to get back on the air again, carpools to those  
32 other meetings might be a really good way. Because I sure would like to go to  
33 Hood River and I have no way to get there. So thank you.

34  
35 Pat Serie:

36 Kristin Mikalson-Mangino ... Nope? Dawn Tryon? Nope? Nancy Metrick. After  
37 Nancy will be Bruce Frazier, Reuben Nisenfeld, Patrick Norton.

38  
39 Nancy Metrick:

40 I have thrown away all my notes, because obviously there were a lot of people  
41 who have said everything that I'd ever want to say here tonight, and said it  
42 with much more information than I would have been able to provide, and I  
43 wouldn't go over that. But I really liked the fact that ... said shame on  
44 you, because I think it's very nice to stay within the lines and be polite and  
45 that's probably one of the things that wouldn't happen and I sure hope this  
46 does some good. I can see some people who clearly are touched by this and  
47 have biased opinions to truly be stewards and act as they should on our  
48 behalf. It's quite obvious what people want. I don't think there's any  
49 question about it. And I see other people who are apologists, who are  
50 probably well paid, who I don't necessarily believe deserve respect for their

opinion; I don't respect everybody's opinion. And I really just wish that they'd take a good look at themselves in the mirror, and you know, if the time is right, maybe retire and live your life well. Because you know, this is not something that is good and in the long and short of it is we're all miracles. We're all part of God, and we all came from this earth, and we've gotta stop doing things that harm it and no matter what amount of money ...

END OF TAPE

Bruce Frazier:

... and that's part in parcel of the entire process. The Tri-Partied Agreement was put forward so that the citizens of the State of Washington could have a voice and some oversight in the process. The fact that the Secretary of Energy has directed the Department of the Energy to stop the shutdown of this reactor, I think, should tell us all we need to know. I think that when we talk about safety in nuclear reactors, they're safe only if very stringent procedures are followed. These are not inherently safe operations; and when you go around the world, whether they're operated with sodium coolants, or water, or whatever else, we found numerous, numerous instances where they've had to be shut down, or where there have been accidents, or where they have exceeded the safety limits and requirements. This is not an isolated case and reactors that have been running with very good records for long periods of time experience real problems, meltdowns, and shutdowns as everybody has said here.

A concern to me is that it doesn't appear that everything that we need to know is on the table. We've heard from the Secretary of Energy, both Mr. Peña and Ms. O'Leary, about using nuclear energy and nuclear power in other areas, of using it to replace hydropower. There's a bill before Congress that would allow private reactor operators to use plutonium. I'm not sure that we really know everything that we need to know in order to make an informed opinion on this matter. And when we say that once, that moving the milestone here, it's not really a real action, it's just a proforma act. It's kind of like when you're in court and you're an attorney, which I happen to be, and you let evidence in. Once you've let evidence in, you've got a real problem because you have to back it out. Once the evidence is there, it's heard, and what have you? And once the decision is made to remove the milestone and you go forward with the EIS, that doesn't guarantee you that even if everything is examined, that you're going to not have the startup of FFTF.

It's apparent that the Secretary of Energy has broad powers and you could draw the worst-case scenario in the EIS and she/he would still have the authority, or he would have the authority, to start up the reactor. I think that we are sending a message around the world when we do this and I think that, you know, we in Oregon are kind of like stepchildren because we are not parties to the partied agreement, but as several people have said, even former Governor Lowry of Washington, was against the startup of FFTF. So, you know, it's not just Oregonians against Washingtonians; it's everybody together who wants to see a world in which nuclear armaments no longer exist and we can't do that by judging every other country in the world. There's going to be perhaps a

2 nuclear weapons potential in some country in the world for ages to come. Does  
3 that mean that we maintain these huge amounts of armaments simply on the basis  
4 of potential threat? I think we have to deal with the realities of the world  
5 and the main reality is that we have more than enough nuclear weapons, both  
6 bombs and many, many other kinds of weapons which are classified, that could  
7 destroy the world many times over. We don't need anything more. Thank you.

8 Inaudible

9  
10 Reuben Nisenfeld:

11 I have three for the records. For the record, this sounds like a really good  
12 caca story. There's a guy and he's got the world's worst disease. The local  
13 country doctor figures out a way to contain this disease, maybe, and comes up  
14 with a plan to start working on a cure that might work, maybe. At the last  
15 minute, the government officials and experts burst into the room and say, we  
16 have the cure. We'll make everyone sick and then no one will have the  
17 disease. For the record let's dispel this myth that is was an unsolicited  
18 proposal by some company out there who just had this great idea to start  
19 producing tritium at this shiny reactor that hasn't been used in a really long  
20 time. The DOD did not close down Savannah River when it did, and go, hmm,  
21 we're gonna need tritium; where are we gonna get that? I don't know; maybe  
22 we'll just stop making nuclear bombs. That doesn't sound like the Department  
23 of Defense. This has been carefully orchestrated; it has been planned from  
24 the beginning. Don't buy the BS line that this is somehow some great economic  
25 development plan. For the record, if the global tide of commonism requires  
26 us, being the Department of Defense, to begin producing tritium for nuclear  
27 bombs to protect our national security, for the record, the citizens of Oregon  
28 will not allow it, for the record. Thank you.

29  
30 Inaudible

31  
32 Paul McAdams:

33 Here we are again. In 1983, we did a walk from Astoria to the gates of  
34 Hanford when they started up the PUREX plant. We told them they were going to  
35 have problems up there and they did. They said we didn't know what we were  
36 talking about. Also, we were, the DOE said we were, I mean, first they came  
37 out and said to us that we were misleading, telling false information. Now,  
38 it's really hard to be here, you know, to, you know, express my feelings, you  
39 know, because I know that in the '80s, a Native American woman came to me from  
40 the Yakama Reservation and talked to me in '80, around 1984 we did a meeting  
41 up there. She asked me why are children dying of cancer? You know the affect  
42 on the Native American people and the DOE keeps on giving the same  
43 information. They had a meeting in Portland to keep the N Reactor going.  
44 They came down here and they said we want a Congressional hearing and they  
45 talked about keeping the N Reactor going. You know their whole thing was to  
46 keep the N Reactor going.

47  
48 It just, you know, I mean, I quit coming to meetings because, ya know, it's  
49 just the same old thing, ya know. They're going to do what they wanna do, ya  
50 know, if it takes, I know we've gone up there and people sit on the roads up

there, and if they start this thing up again, I'm prepared to go up there and blockade the road going in. You know, and that's what we're talking about, we blocked their trucks and we'll go back up there again. We did a peace camp. I went out there and leafleted the workers and it's the same thing. You know, during that walk, we have a precious thing out there, that Columbia River, and you know when you drive up that river, you know, you go fast. But when you walk every step, 350 miles, and during that time we met in towns up and down that river. We talked to people in Ione, Oregon, to a wheat ranch out in eastern Oregon. We went there and had meetings with the people and their concerns about Hanford, and it's still going on. And everyone in this room, I wish tomorrow they would call the Secretary of Energy in Washington, D.C. and call. I wish I could have said this earlier, call that number. You know, if we hundreds of calls going in there and say no, we do not want this fast flux breeder reactor. I don't know how many people know, above Hanford there is one of the largest dams, second largest dam in the country, the Grand Coulee Dam. And what happens if that dam broke? What would if that dam breaks? Half the water would be 100 feet over the N Reactor. So I mean, if they lost all the water and you have about seven dams above that, so I mean, down below that dam. So I mean, I'm just saying that, you know, we cannot. I mean, I've been involved doing this stuff for, you know, years and I've been arrested so many times, you know, that I'm prepared to be arrested again if I have to.

Pat Serie:

Do we have J. Satterfield?

Jim Satterfield:

I'm Jim Satterfield and I'm speaking as a private citizen. And I've been sitting here listening to all of the very good comments this evening and I've kind of boiled down my own thoughts into the a simple slogan that you might, and that is--death to the FFTF. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Christine Charneski. No? Billy Wolf.

John Corrie:

OK. I guess this is to Roger Stanley. I think you need to challenge the federal authority in Washington, that's the Department of Energy, Peña, and stop what they just overrode, your authority, and change some minds over there. If we need teeth in the TPA regulations, what's it going to take? Do they have to, does the State of Washington have to do some initiatives or something to change the law? Because it's an act of law that needs to be changed and we need to, you know, if the federal government is overrunning what your department, the Department of Ecology, is doing, then you need to step up and challenge that authority.

Pat Serie:

Can we get your name, sir? For the record. Could we have your name for the record?

1 John Corrie:  
2 John Corrie.

3  
4 Pat Serie:  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 Billy Wolf:

8 My name is Billy Wolf and I'm speaking for myself tonight and also for all the  
9 nonhuman living things whose voices are frequently unheard in meetings like  
10 this. I'm going to talk about people though. I'm a naturopathic physician in  
11 the State of Oregon and as many of you may be familiar with the work of  
12 Dr. Helton Kaldekov and Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the reason  
13 why that, a reason why that organization has had such success in the issue of  
14 the nuclear, the nuclear issue, is because its physicians that see the results  
15 of the poisons of the industry and my own experience practicing here in Oregon  
16 and also in Washington. I've had patients who have traveled to see me from  
17 the Tri-City area who were suffering from endocrine diseases and these people  
18 have told me that their family members have suffered from similar diseases.

19  
20 It's not a theory, it's a fact and it's a fact that we all need to be  
21 accountable for. Those particular types of diseases, endocrine diseases, are  
22 very difficult to treat. The endocrine system is a system of glands that  
23 controls all the functions of the body ultimately leading to endocrine  
24 cancers, such as prostate cancer, breast cancer, ovarian cancer. These are  
25 some of the most serious pathologies facing us today. And I think it's ironic  
26 to make claims to produce some form of medicine, radioactive medicine, that is  
27 going to be derived from the very technology that's producing the cancers that  
28 we're speaking of. I don't get the travesty, so I have, I went to college in  
29 Washington. I have friends in the Department of Ecology in Washington state  
30 and I've always felt fondly about the Department of Ecology. Most states  
31 don't have a Department of Ecology and that's something, something you may not  
32 know, and I'd like to believe you're my friend also, because you represent  
33 that department. And I really would expect after what you've heard tonight,  
34 that you would go back to your agency and express the opinions that you've  
35 heard from the people here tonight. I would appreciate that. And as for  
36 Mr. Hughes here, I wonder if you've learned anything tonight? You mentioned  
37 that you don't know everything; you just represent a portion of your agency.  
38 I hope you've heard some of the opinions tonight, some of the expert opinions  
39 and some of the heartfelt opinions. And I believe that if you've been  
40 listening, that you would either change your plans or simply quit your job.

41  
42 Whatever your personal agenda may be, it seems clear to me that you're not  
43 acting in accordance with the people's will. It's an issue of conscience and  
44 I wonder if it is, if your political allegiances or your pocketbook are more  
45 important than the people's will.

46  
47 Twenty years ago as a teenager, I was involved in civil disobedience at the  
48 Shoreham Nuclear Plant in Long Island. I witnessed the power of the people to  
49 stand up for what they know is right and to defeat the greedy and dangerous  
50 profit-mongering motives of industry. Looking around this room tonight, I

002247



1 predict that we, the assembled, represent the tip of an iceberg of concern and  
2 dissent that can and will stop such outrageous threats to our environment.  
3 It's clear to me that this plan to degrade the milestone time line is a  
4 blatant expression of the way the nuclear industry is in cahoots with the  
5 government. I refuse to be duped by this safety talk. Safety talk; let's  
6 remember the words of the Captain of the Titanic: But sir, this ship is  
7 unsinkable. The only problem is that the arrogance and the greed involved  
8 with this reactor would drag all of us, even those unborn, down with the ship.  
9

10 As a doctor, my duty is to diagnose and cure disease. My diagnosis of this  
11 situation is that the Department of Energy is suffering from a delusional  
12 disorder. A dangerous syndrome which combines ignorance and greed. The  
13 result of this disease is in the pollution of the second largest river in our  
14 nation; once one of the most productive salmon rivers in the world. With the  
15 type of pollution that is trans-generational, that has the potential of  
16 adversely affecting the genetic health of all species that exist downwind or  
17 downriver for countless generations. That means us, folks; each of us, our  
18 children, and our children's children. Let's not forget the point raised by  
19 the elderly gentleman earlier, about the prospect of bringing 33 tons of  
20 plutonium into our region. Our region is not a dump site.  
21

22 So the cure for this governmental incompetence is going to be as it has always  
23 been, the diligence of involved citizens. Keep informed and stay active. For  
24 the sake of each of us and our families, and for the next seven generations to  
25 come, I request that the TPA milestones be reactivated and the FFTF be shut  
26 down permanently. I'm honored to be a part of all of you here tonight. Thank  
27 you.  
28

29 Pat Serie:

30 Jacqueline Fern. Nope? Alexandra Gayen.  
31

32 Alexandra Gayen:

33 My name is Alexandra Gayen. I am also a physician and I have to tell you how  
34 frustrating it is to try to help people who have conditions which are directly  
35 related to the problems that we human beings have created in our environment.  
36 We often like to think about protecting our children and our grandchildren,  
37 and I'm here to tell that there's not a single person in this room that has  
38 not been affected by nuclear power and the waste that's created thereby, other  
39 forms of low-level radiation and the other ways in which we've allowed our  
40 environment to be degraded. So here we all are and we're all in this  
41 together. I'd prefer and would hope that some day we could all be sitting in  
42 a room, not across the table from one another as, well, I'm on this side and  
43 you're on that side, and I want to win and I want to make you look bad. I  
44 don't think we'd get anywhere by that kind of thinking. And I'm really  
45 hopeful that the people who are sitting in this room today whose views are not  
46 the same as mine about what we should do about this particular situation will  
47 at some point in the near future learn the lesson that I learned a long time  
48 ago.  
49

002248

1 I used to spend a lot of time doing dangerous wilderness activities and have  
2 on a number of occasions put myself near to death because of risks that I've  
3 taken. I've also been in the position of being a wilderness leader and it's a  
4 lot harder when being the leader of the group who really wants to run the  
5 river, climb the mountain, do the thing that they came there and paid their  
6 money to do, even if the situation no longer looks safe. But it is the  
7 responsibility of that leader in those situations to use all of the  
8 information at their disposal to make the correct decision. And often that  
9 involves losing face, admitting to have made a mistake, looking bad, losing a  
10 job because somebody else did not like the decision that one made because  
11 money was lost.  
12

13 There's no way to predict in many situations that may look dangerous, whether  
14 or not the feared event might happen, actually ever would have happened, had  
15 we proceeded when we didn't. But it's our responsibility to take into account  
16 all of the information that we have and make a decision based on that, the  
17 risks involved. Weighing the benefits and the risks in this particular  
18 situation, it would appear that the choices that were presented earlier about  
19 what to do about these milestones did not include a very creative list. And  
20 it appears to me, with my limited information about this particular situation,  
21 that the appropriate response would be to change the assumption behind whether  
22 or not we should do something different with the milestone. The assumption  
23 being that the nuclear device is no longer in the deactivated status. I think  
24 maybe we need to question that assumption and return to the deactivated status  
25 so that we're not in the position of having to erase the milestones or just  
26 change the numbers on them. Let's take a step back, really assess the  
27 situation, and do the right thing. Thank you.  
28

29 Pat Serie:  
30 Joyce Follingstad.  
31

32 Joyce Follingstad:

33 I'm Joyce Follingstad and I'm a nurse and psychologist. And I'm not a speaker  
34 and I've been at hearings for decades, but I've always been scared. But it is  
35 my opinion that the FFTF should not be started up again for all the reasons  
36 that we've heard tonight; that I am just convinced that it's unsafe and  
37 convinced that the waste should not be produced.  
38

39 As a young nurse, I was a surgery nurse for seven years. What I know is that  
40 we were not given radioactive badges because we were just supposed to trust  
41 that we didn't have enough exposure to measure. But what I do know is that in  
42 those seven years, of all those women that worked there, there was only one  
43 live birth and that child was retarded. And I think that there have been many  
44 dangers that we have faced without, with just being trust positions, but I  
45 educated myself and got involved in the Works in Progress Bill, the Low-Level  
46 Radiation Bill in Oregon, and the initiatives for trying to close Trojan. As  
47 a nurse, I have great concern for the safety, physical safety, of our  
48 children, for their children, and this is threatened by the nuclear industry,  
49 the contamination of our country, and our world. And cleaning up our messes  
50 in this country has to be our number one priority.

002249

But as a psychologist I must say I'm not paid to speak, but to listen. And I listen daily to things that concern me greatly and for many years I have listened. Fifty years the nuclear industry has abused people of this nation and this world. I sit with people who have cancer and who have cancer phobia. I sit with people who have their children dying of leukemia and cancers. I've worked with a woman who has lost every relative in her family; they were downwinders in Utah. She's the only one that survived her thyroid cancer. I sit with people that are the victims of PTSD from wars, broken families, substance abuse, all the things that wars produce. And all of us, none of us, get away from what happens psychologically in our nation in times of war. And if we continue to produce more weapons, we are all contributing to this.

Women are in the midst of an epidemic of breast cancer. One out of every eight women in this nation will get breast cancer. It's a disgrace and we are in the process of having an epidemic of prosthetic cancers. It's a disgrace; we are killing ourselves, we are killing our children. I believe that our environmental pollution has contributed to this mightily. Most of all, when are we going to tell the truth to the people, to our children. I was shocked when I educated myself back in '76 when I first started participating in hearings and all, to find out that you can't insure yourself against the nuclear industry, and can't insure your home, you can't insure your health. There isn't anything like that. Of course, the nuclear power plant had a small policy from the government. But you can't insure any of this.

When I was a child they told me when they heard the sirens to get under your desk and you'd be safe; what a joke. Twenty years ago, eighteen years ago, at Trojan, they had this little piddly ten-mile evacuation route. What a joke. What about the people of Portland and the people beyond? I haven't heard anything about the evacuation plan for the FFTF. I don't know what they're going to do for all of us when this goes. But today we know the truth. We know that we all occupy the same planet; we all drink the same water; we all eat food from the same soil; we all breath the same air. It is a disgrace that we are only having four meetings for this. There should be meetings everywhere in the world because we know in Oregon that we have breathed the radioactive dust of China's nuclear testing, the South Pacific nuclear testing. We have had in our soil the iodine and other fallout from Chernobyl.

Nobody gets away from this. We all share in this and the people across the Pacific should be having hearings about what it's going to be like for them to have our radioactivity coming down the Columbia and going into the Pacific Ocean. We are all in this together. Time is up? OK. I think it's an audacity and greedy to consider starting up the FFTF reactor. We have nothing if we don't have clean air, clean water, clean soil, and communities. And so Mr. Hughes, Mr. Stanley, and everyone else here, please join our community. Let's close FFTF forever; let's not delete the deadlines. Let's figure out how the TPA can meet the deadline for cleanup. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Chris Steele. No? Mary Jo Hosack. Sharla Shull. I'm probably saying this so badly, they could be just sitting right out there. Sharla Shull.

1 Robert Hedlund. Alright. After Mr. Hedlund we have Monica Serrano,  
2 Ruth Currie, and Nancy Tracy, please.

3  
4 Robert Hedlund:

5 Yeah. First of all I'd like to say I was in with the doctor today, the one  
6 that did my two cancer operations on my leg a couple years ago. Let me give  
7 you a little background. In 1953, I worked for ... in eastern Oregon, which  
8 is 28 miles this side of Pendleton. I worked on a hay ranch and did a lot of  
9 hunting over there. I ran pipeline crews for many years. I worked, I laid a  
10 pipeline through McCormick and Baxter down there, the creosote plant that's  
11 probably the most toxic place in the United States. I also laid 20 miles, or  
12 eight miles, of 20-inch gas line down Front Avenue. In the 1980s, well, I've  
13 worked at Trojan many times since I started out shooting about eight tons of  
14 nitrogen in ... down there when they first leveled it.

15  
16 I worked for Weismer and Becker, Delco, a bunch of people down there. In  
17 1980, I was down there for the refueling. I shouldn't have been down there  
18 because I was injured on the job previous to that. But I was down there  
19 because Safe Corporation cut my money off and I had no other choices; I had  
20 nine dependents at home. Anyway, while I was working down there, there was  
21 about a week's time, we were issued picks and dosimeters and stuff, and my  
22 pick, which was 350 millirems, went off the scale four days in a row. Anyway,  
23 the fifth day I asked, well anyway, later on that week, I was in a space suit.  
24 We were in the hottest spot in the plant and we were just shutting down that  
25 area and cleaning up and the umbilical cord that feeds the air to the space  
26 suit, there's quick-coupler connectors on it, and on the way down the stairs  
27 and out into the thing the coupler came loose. Anyway after a couple of  
28 minutes, I ran out of air. I tore the space suit off and took a deep breath.  
29 Anyway, I worked from May 8 until June 24; and the 24th I was coughing up  
30 blood, my hair was falling out, and I couldn't get out of bed. I called them  
31 up and they said, well, if you can make it in for the coughing deal, we'll lay  
32 you off.

33  
34 Anyway I made it in there and got laid off. Anyway, I coughed up blood for  
35 eight years after I left down there. I lost all my teeth, my hands weren't  
36 well anyway, I've had all kinds of medical problems. I've had two cancer  
37 operations. When I went to see, one of the reasons I went in to see the  
38 doctor was I cough up stuff every day, and it's black and fills the sink, you  
39 know?

40  
41 I called PG here a while back and asked them about Catalytic, the company I  
42 was working for. Oh, hell, we don't know where they are. They're in  
43 Pennsylvania somewhere but we haven't heard from them. We can't track them  
44 down. I've had two kids die. One I had working at out at McCormick and  
45 Baxter with me. The side room operator that was working out there with me, we  
46 laid a, he's dead. He died of the same stuff I'm coughing up out there.  
47 Anyway, the other guy that was working with me, I ran into the other night.  
48 He told me he was having problems like I'm having right now. I can't touch my  
49 bones; they hurt, you know, my joints hurt. I've got these rashes all over.  
50 When I left Trojan, every God damn lymph gland in my body was swelled up, you

002250

1 know. Boils, you know. I went through hell, you know. Hey, I'm paying the  
2 damn doctor bills myself, assholes, you know? Who's gonna pay 'em? You know,  
3 I've got a grandkid at home that I'm raising, you know. Who's gonna put him  
4 through college when I'm gone? You know, my wife damned near died, you know;  
5 we brought that crap home on our clothes. Hey, I hear of all this God damned  
6 money you're spending, you know. Where's the money at for medical help? You  
7 know, I have to beg, you know. I've never been on welfare or food stamps in  
8 my life, you know, and it's hard for me to ask for medical help. Anyway, I  
9 don't have much more to say than get the God damn plant out of there. Did  
10 they warn me? Oh, God, no, no. Hey, I'll tell you what, you know, when we  
11 were shooting eight tons of nitrogen off a day we, ya know, every time we'd  
12 drill a hole it would fill up with water. You know, we had to line that stuff  
13 in visqueen two four-inch sticks at the bottom; fill it up, you know, and two  
14 four-inch sticks on top.

15  
16 That place down there is full of faults, you know, and what's gonna happen  
17 when we have an earthquake and the deal splits open? And they say, well,  
18 there's only a seven percent chance of a nuclear meltdown if it's not running,  
19 you know. You know, you want to flip a coin until you hit seven percent? No.  
20 Shut the damn thing down; shut them all down.

21  
22 Pat Serie:

23 Thank you, Mr. Hedlund. Monica Serrano. Ruth Currie. After Ruth Currie, it  
24 will be Nancy Tracy, Rick Bayer, Lynn Sims, please.

25  
26 Monica Serrano:

27 Well, I just want to second everything that has been said tonight about what  
28 and why we're here, and what we're going, what we want to do. I'm a medical  
29 social worker, retired. I've been a social activist. I've been opposing the  
30 nuclear plant since they started and that was before I got gray hair. And I  
31 think that I've joined this gentleman in protesting in Richland and spent a  
32 night, thanks to the City of Richland. And I think that we have to keep our  
33 voice going and this is, so far, has been the best meeting that I've gone to  
34 in some years. Now ten years ago, it was a deadly meeting with the DOE. But  
35 at least we got some information out tonight. But we all have to keep working  
36 on it.

37  
38 Unidentified person:

39 Everybody here has said everything I might have hoped to say and brought up  
40 many things that added much to my perspective of what's going on now. But I  
41 know my name was near the end of the line, if not the last one, and I stayed  
42 more not to add anything to that because it's already been said, but just to  
43 say that this evening has renewed for me my sense of kinship with my species  
44 that I often lose along the way. So, thank you, all of you.

45  
46 Rick Bayer:

47 My name's Rick Bayer and I'm also on the Board of Directors of Physicians for  
48 Social Responsibility, the Oregon Chapter. This is the third time I've been  
49 here speaking on this since last summer and I've been asked to list a few  
50 other credentials, so here goes. I'm board certified, American Board of

002251

002252

002253

1 Internal Medicine, that specialty is adult medicine. Although I'm not always  
2 proud of it, I am a member of American Medical Association and the Oregon  
3 Medical Association, and the Clackamas County Medical Society. I'm a member  
4 of the American College of Physicians, American Society of Internal Medicine,  
5 American Public Health Association, and probably some things I've left out.  
6 That's better. To help with brevity what I've done is I've just written a  
7 very brief letter to Secretary Peña and that way I can turn it in as written  
8 documentation.  
9

10 Dear Mr. Peña. Thank you for allowing public discussion of the efforts to  
11 restart the Fast Flux Test Facility at Hanford Nuclear Reservation in  
12 Washington state. Although Hanford has a legacy as a bomb factory and a major  
13 source of pollution for one of the great water sheds of the world, the  
14 Columbia River ... Now everybody has said lots of things so I'm going to get  
15 to the bottom line pretty soon. My hometown, Portland, Oregon, just happens  
16 to sit on this great river which is becoming increasingly polluted from  
17 activities at Hanford. And the Hanford Nuclear Reservation is also notorious  
18 for releases of radioactive gases that have caused cancer in downwinders and  
19 we've heard from some of these people tonight. I've also taken care of some  
20 of these people in my practice, including a young woman who had cancer when  
21 she was a teenager. Her cancer had been in remission and I'd taken care of  
22 her for ten years, basically doing surveillance, and they are lymph-node  
23 enlarged, suggesting the possibility of recurrence. Now the trauma and  
24 anguish that she and her husband and her children went through during this  
25 evaluation is not worth the money that investors hope to make in this  
26 discussion.  
27

28 Consider for a moment how much the health of you and your loved ones is worth,  
29 Mr. Peña. Would you trade this away for a promise of gold? There is now a  
30 public relations smokescreen to sell the FFTF as a way to help America make  
31 medical isotopes to cure cancer. America imports most of its isotopes just as  
32 we do oil, electronics, and children's toys. In researching this, I came  
33 across the April 1997 "CounterPunch" newsletter. I was asked to sort of, as a  
34 side trip, I was asked to possibly appear with Congresswoman Furse, who I  
35 helped to get elected a couple of years ago. I worked on her campaign and I'm  
36 glad it was successful; and Senator Wyden, and this gentleman from the Bullet  
37 Foundation in Washington was saying, oh there's all this concern about the  
38 medical isotopes and it's really mixing up our Washington delegation, but I  
39 don't detect that much problem in Oregon. After I explained to him that  
40 Washington got the jobs and we only got the pollution, he seemed to be able to  
41 figure it out, why our delegates were a little bit different in Oregon. But  
42 the CounterPunch newsletter authors Ken Silverstein and Alexander Cockburn  
43 wrote an article called "Plot to Cure Aids, Make H Bomb in Five Billion."  
44 They describe how this PR blitz was masterminded by Richard Thompson, who they  
45 describe as a former Air Force officer and Democratic party wheeler-dealer  
46 entrepreneur in Washington state.  
47

48 ... William Stokes, respectively Vice President, and President of Advanced  
49 Nuclear and Medical Systems. I've got the documents here for you. The FFTF  
50 was supposed to make tritium for nuclear weapons; however, because of

1 competition for making tritium only from plants and heavyweight politicians  
2 like Pete Domenici of New Mexico (Los Alamos), and Strom Thurman from South  
3 Carolina (Savannah River), the folks who were pushing to restart the FTF knew  
4 that they would fail if Hanford tried to compete as a tritium-only plant.  
5 This is why the medical mission was invented and why the PR blitz is  
6 occurring. Leak sensitive and confidential memos explain all of this in the  
7 heroic efforts of whistleblower Randall Bonebrake that made this information  
8 public. He needs to be on the Christmas card list of a lot of people.  
9

10 With more political manipulation stretching all the way from Washington state  
11 to the White House, to Germany, the FFTF went on hot standby instead of being  
12 shut down. As people mentioned, the hot standby status has cost more  
13 30 million dollars per year that it's taking away from cleanup efforts. The  
14 main reason that I bring this up is just to expose the obvious scam of using  
15 medical isotopes issues as a smokescreen to try privatize the FFTF and make  
16 large sums of money. And it's been said over and over again. That's what  
17 it's all about, folks. Now, of course, this would help make the FFTF  
18 proponents, including Advanced Nuclear and Medical Systems, dodge charges that  
19 Hanford and FFTF is only a bomb factory. And it would give Hanford the  
20 political nod to make tritium instead of facilities in New Mexico and South  
21 Carolina. It has everything to do with money and nothing to do with health.  
22 It all makes sense.  
23

24 Now I've certainly been involved with medical isotopes for both diagnosis and  
25 treatment of many people with various illnesses. I've ordered lots of nuclear  
26 medicine studies and taken care of lots of people that have had radiation side  
27 effects from cancer treatment. OK. One minute. So that nuclear medicine  
28 specialists have expressed no fear of any shortage of isotopes. Some prefer  
29 isotopes made in the USA rather than Canada and support production of isotopes  
30 at Hanford. Strangely the corporate-friendly experts don't seem to live  
31 downstream from Hanford. Other specialists have stated that the imported  
32 supply is stable and thus, there is no need for the FFTF to produce medical  
33 isotopes. In addition, reports that I have read state that isotope production  
34 would not occur for more than a decade. Using a risk versus benefit  
35 assessment which all physicians use, it seems quite obvious that in this  
36 particular situation any remote possibility of benefit from extra medical  
37 isotopes made at the FFTF is overshadowed by unreasonable risks and I don't  
38 have to go through that because everybody has done that so eloquently.  
39

40 Lastly, lastly, there is now an effort by the proponents of nuclear power to  
41 have the people who may get the jobs, come to the city, it's on the internet,  
42 and to the state that gets the pollution, but doesn't get the jobs, Oregon.  
43 This is just a cynical attempt to sew the seeds of death, just for money.  
44 This tactic uses those who are desperate for jobs as pawns in the game and is  
45 strategic corporate hypocrisy in extreme. But alas, as described, business as  
46 usual in environmental and labor issues. I'm all for well-paying jobs in our  
47 neighboring state, but the jobs at Hanford should be for cleaning up and not  
48 for creating more waste. The radioactive waste will be around for a long time  
49 and if we focus on the cleaning up, then we'll have clean up jobs for a very  
50 long time.

END OF TAPE

Pat Serie:

Thank you. Holly Whitney, then Rayner Ward and Barbara Pereira.  
Holly Whitney, please? Rayner Ward? How about Barbara Pereira? Goodness.  
Bill Boese. Here he comes. OK. John Gilson, Paul Richmond,  
Frederick Harris.

Bill Boese:

Thanks. First of all, I went to one of these meetings. I don't know if  
Mr. Hughes was there or if any of these other people were there. I know some  
of you people were there and the people that have left. But this era of  
secrecy I hope is over. The lies and the distortions and the untruths have to  
cease. It's supposedly a free country where we should be getting information  
clearly. I'd like to thank all of the Oregon representatives that spoke and  
sent their letters up here tonight because they sent a very strong message  
that sounded like Oregon doesn't want this Fast Flux Test Facility. I wish  
Senator Hatfield would have been here in person. I wish that he would have  
stated the things he said in the letter ten years ago and 15 and 20 years ago  
as strong as he did tonight. Maybe this stuff wouldn't even be in existence  
right now.

But as I look around in this particular history right now, I don't see any  
World War II Japanese invasions. I don't see any cold war, USSR, arms races.  
What the hell are we doing? Private corporations are going to send us to war  
again? Wow, that would be cool. We have no one to blame for the reversal of  
nuclear weapons but the will of people, in this country, and around the world.  
I will be here after the DOE's left.

Pat Serie:

John Gilson, then Paul Richmond, Frederick Harris, then Larry Burt, please.

John Gilson:

Yeah, my name's John Gilson. I live up here in Portland. I've lived in  
Oregon all my life and I like to think that I'm an elder now. I've got gray  
hair (what's left) and I'm older than the President. Last March, I had a  
life-saving operation, which kind of gave me a new outlook on life, felt like  
I had a second chance. The cause to do a little reflection and thinking about  
what's gone on in the 50 some years that I've been here and one of the, and so  
now I want to get some of these thoughts out. I'm really, really upset that  
the country, the U.S. that we know now, has no direction. It has no morals,  
it's lost. It was the first country that dropped a bomb and on TV we see the  
results of that. We see the horrors that that bomb caused. Now we're hearing  
the horrors of the production of what these bombs have done. I just want to  
say that we need, this country needs to get back on moral ground and find some  
spirit. And not even to outlaw land mines, not to take a leadership in global  
warming. I mean, what are we? We're supposed to be the leaders of the world.  
The only thing we're doing is we're leading ourselves to somebody else's pot  
of gold; their resources. It's not working. We need to gain some moral value



1 back in this country. We need to take this one step of stopping the continued  
2 manufacturing of nuclear weapons. Thank you.

4 Pat Serie:

5 Thank you, Mr. Gilson. Paul Richmond. Great. Then we have Frederick Harris,  
6 Larry Burt, and Cherie Holenstein, please.

8 Paul Richmond:

9 For the record, for the record, my name is Paul Richmond, local media  
10 producer, writer for a couple of local smaller newspapers. Among other  
11 things, used to do a lot of satirical stuff when I started out in politics and  
12 things like this just kind of eclipsed everything I was doing, so I kind of  
13 began just covering what was really going on.

002256

15 We've gone over, a lot of the people here have gone over just all the ways  
16 that nuclear waste and nuclear industry and the nuclear spinoffs have just  
17 destroyed lives. And I just want to ask, is there anyone who can think of a  
18 single foreign enemy or even a combination of foreign enemies that have  
19 brought even remote, anywhere remotely, near the amount of destruction and  
20 death that the nuclear industry has? Is there anyone in the room who can name  
21 those enemies? Mr. Hughes, could you? Is that a no? I think that makes the  
22 point. About ten years ago we were talking about, right after the Challenger  
23 had blown up, there was talk about that the next, one of the next shuttles was  
24 going to bring 40 pounds of plutonium up into the atmosphere. Forty pounds of  
25 plutonium was, I am told, enough to cause cancer on every living person on the  
26 planet. We're talking about 33-metric tons being brought here to Hanford.  
27 Now, a little bit about mathematics. A ton is approximately about 50 times  
28 the amount of 40 pounds. Thirty-three times 50 is roughly a little more than  
29 1600 and something. Two times that and we're placing it on a earthquake fault  
30 line and there's a major dam right next to it. We're gonna drive a lot of it  
31 on the same kind of icy roads. We've got a major nuclear reactor there named  
32 WPPSS.

34 Pat Serie:

35 Thank you, Mr. Richmond. OK. Frederick Harris. No?. Larry Burt. No?  
36 Cherie Holenstein. After that will be Michael O'Rourke.

38 Cherie Holenstein:

39 Good evening. My name is Cherie Holenstein. I'm here as a private citizen.  
40 I am and have been a member of too many organizations to mention here. What  
41 are my credentials? I've been an activist for over 45 years. My first  
42 protest against nuclear power was November 3, 1971, Amchitka Nuclear  
43 Underground Blast, and you're probably all familiar with Green Peace, that was  
44 the action that Green Peace formed. Someone said that a country honors that  
45 which it cultivates. This country cultivates weapons of mass destruction,  
46 which leads to war. This is about greed. This is about industry that  
47 probably says, gee with its new fast trigger, we can go to the arms market and  
48 sell more arms. So, I'll be very brief; cleanup first, cleanup last, cleanup  
49 only. Thank you.

002257

1 Pat Serie:

2 Is Michael O'Rourke here?. Bill Beebe? Lloyd Marbet? He was here and he  
3 spoke and he's gone. Marcia Meyers? Hm, what are we going to do until 11:30?  
4 Mark Brown. Dirk Friedt, right?  
5

6 Unidentified person:

7 Well, I'm here because I'm supposed to be here. And I heard about this on  
8 KVEW radio and I was really shocked about the information that this Hanford  
9 plant was going to be reactivated. And so I had to come here and tell you  
10 what I know about it, which is very little. The other day on TV, on  
11 Montel Williams, Alec Baldwin is an actor and he was on there talking about  
12 Staten Island in New York, and he's talking about the devastating effects of  
13 cancer in children because of low-level nuclear radiation from that plant,  
14 from the production of tritium. So there's world-renowned physicians who are  
15 the world's experts that are saying that this rhabdomyosarcoma. It's a  
16 muscle-connective tissue and it's predominately from a low-level of radiation  
17 type of cancer. Ten children in the eight-mile radius all came down with this  
18 same kind of cancer. Now this is more than a coincidence. This plant was  
19 built on the largest aquifer in the State of New York, the water is highly  
20 contaminated. They are storing this tritium in a large pond where it  
21 evaporates into the environment. So it's not just Trojan; it's not just  
22 Hanford; or Staten Island. It's Sweden, Japan, China. The whole world is  
23 affected by this. Nobody's gonna get away with this. Even you are affected  
24 by it.

002258

25 There's a Dr. Kalkotta, MD, and she's confirming all this information to be,  
26 you know, accurate, and that these kids are dying of this cancer in this area  
27 because the water is being contaminated by this tritium that's leaking into  
28 our environment. I lost my train of thought ... I'm kind of mad because my  
29 whole life I've been living with one fear. People have fears of snakes and  
30 spiders or something like that; but I've been terrified of being blown up by  
31 nuclear disaster my whole life. I was wondering when it's going to happen;  
32 when the idiot in the world is going to press the bomb. That's a horrible  
33 feeling. It's like what future do you have if you have to worry every day  
34 whether or not nuclear power plants are going to melt down and do us all in?  
35 So, toxic nuclear area map of the world, I was shocked when I saw this. Every  
36 perimeter of the United States is toxic with nuclear waste. The only state  
37 that isn't is Texas. Why is that? That's where President George Bush lives.  
38 That's where Lyndon B. Johnson resides and came from. That's kind of funny,  
39 isn't it? So, I'm going to leave you with quotes of famous songwriters of all  
40 us, Paul Simon: The sound of silence, like silent cancer grows. Also, this  
41 one: It's not a war with another country; it's a war with man. Neil Young.  
42 Thank you for everything and thank you for coming out here and I love all of  
43 you. And I'm going to continue the support, the efforts that it takes to stop  
44 all of this nuclear insanity in the world. Thank you.  
45

46 Bill Mead:

47 You know, I just was thinking about something here. I'm Bill Mead. I'm the  
48 one with the BOHICA sign, remember? OK. I was thinking about something here.  
49 We're talking about tritium and the reason for tritium is to boost the  
50

002223

1 explosive yield of a nuclear weapon. OK. You don't need tritium to build a  
2 nuclear weapon. You don't need this in the first place. The reason you build  
3 tritium and you put it in there is for a fission, fusion, and then possibly a  
4 fission reaction to boost the original fission reaction in the bomb by about  
5 40 percent. What the hell are we doing here? What are we doing? They know  
6 that we only need, in the event of a national defense emergency, I think  
7 that's what they determine, between 100 and 300 nuclear weapons, and these are  
8 small weapons. The reason why we want tritium is to boost yield, miniaturize  
9 it, and make it more accurate so we could have MIRV weapons on these delivery  
10 systems. We don't need it. Why are we even talking about this?  
11

12 Mike Dill:

13 My name is Mike Dill. I guess I represent my family and my friends and all  
14 the people who aren't here tonight. I had a sister who was a nurse in  
15 Spokane, Washington, and she asked me to relay this message tonight. She  
16 works in a premature baby, you know, where she sees a lot of crack babies and  
17 a lot of cocaine babies. I mean she sees a lot. She says by far the most  
18 birth defects that she sees comes from the Tri-Cities area and they come from  
19 nuclear radiation. So I think the facts are definitely in and the facts are  
20 definitely here and nuclear radiation is bad. And I hope that if politicians  
21 go forward with this, and what I consider insanity, that I hope that we  
22 deliver that first truck load of plutonium to the DOE's parking lot and I hope  
23 that we dump it in their parking lot and let them go to work the next morning.  
24

25 I've been reading a lot of American Indian literature, because I think  
26 Americans, I try to see how we can become active in this world that we live  
27 in. And I think the American Indian is real aware of the government lie and I  
28 think we also have to become very aware of it and I think we need to learn  
29 from these brothers and sisters. And I think that also the warriors that are  
30 left within there are starting to become active in poetry and starting to  
31 become active in literature and I'd like to just end with a quote from  
32 Buffy St. Marie who has a song called "The Priest of the Golden Bullet" and  
33 she says: Silver burns a hole in your pocket and gold burns a hole in your  
34 soul. It says plutonium burns a hole in forever and just keeps getting out of  
35 control. Thank you.  
36

37 Inaudible  
38

39 Unidentified person:

40 ... First I want to talk and say ... I want to speak in a foreign tongue,  
41 moral tongue of your nation, it's called English. The reason I say this is in  
42 the beginning ... Out of all the things that you put our people through, when  
43 you told us we couldn't speak our languages, we couldn't have our hair long,  
44 and all of the other stuff; I want you to know that we're still here; we're  
45 still resisting. Our people have been here for a long time and we believe  
46 that we are the caretakers for this land and it's our responsibility to take  
47 care of all of creation as we know it here. We ... a white race was a very  
48 young race; they had only been here one time. You have a lot to learn. There  
49 was a lot said tonight. And it was good. But we still believe that you have  
50 to come to the indigenous people. You have to sit down with us. You have to

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1 listen to what we have to say. You have to learn to speak from your heart,  
2 not just your mind. Because in order to become peaceful and live in love and  
3 harmony with nature and nature's true element and not man-made laws, you have  
4 to reacquaint yourself, you have to renew, become reborn, reeducate yourself.  
5

6 Some of you've heard me say these things before and I told you we don't have a  
7 safe way of containment. We're talking about reality and I've heard a lot of  
8 it tonight. And you've always heard me say this. We have no safe way of  
9 taking care of these things that you've created because you don't have an  
10 understanding of it. Until you come to the indigenous people, come to our  
11 ceremonies, sit with us, and be willing to relearn, you're not going to  
12 correct what you're trying to do. It has to come from this way, we all have  
13 to work together, heart, mind, body, and spirit. You always hear the western  
14 medical people say, talk about their heart, and mind, and their body. But you  
15 always forget the most important part, the spirit. Because everything has a  
16 spirit. In our language there's no such thing as an inanimate object. We may  
17 change it, but it still has a spirit. We have to relearn to make that  
18 connection with all of creation in order to correct what is going on. It has  
19 to come from this way. There is no other path.  
20

21 Like I said, there was a lot of good words said. And of all things, I hope  
22 these agencies will come and maybe look at what's going on before it's too  
23 late. Because we were told a long time ago at ceremony that we were going to  
24 come to a point that we're going to have to make a decision and it's going to  
25 affect all of creation. It's going to affect beyond seventh generation.  
26 We're at that point right now. They told me this over 50 years ago in  
27 ceremony. They told us that we were going to be the ones, that we're going to  
28 make this decision. So now we're here and we can't turn it back, but we can  
29 correct it if we're willing to work together, each and every one of us. I've  
30 heard people say that I've come here to speak, where are the one's that are  
31 not here, the animal nations? The winged ones? The four-legged ones? The  
32 tree and the plants?  
33

34 We also want you to know that we told you a long time ago to leave it in the  
35 ground. Don't bother it. That's part of mother earth, because you don't  
36 understand what it's truly for, and until you're willing to relearn this way  
37 and correct what has been taken out of the mother earth. All of the things  
38 that were said tonight, it's good. And now let us all come together, then let  
39 us work together. Let us sit down, let us read, relearn, let us think from  
40 our heart. We have a saying that would open your heart to hear the back of  
41 your heart and back off. Take time, think about the decisions that you are  
42 doing, so that you won't make the mistakes that have been made before.  
43

44 Certain words that we have in our traditional languages we can't explain to  
45 you; there's no interpretation. They are sacred and holy. That's the closest  
46 we can come to in your language. When we say "ahhkan", it goes far deeper  
47 than that 'cause it includes all of creation as we know it. We have to learn  
48 to heal, we have to do it in this way ...  
49  
50

1 Pat Serie:

2 Written responses are welcome. The comment period, as Roger mentioned, will  
3 be extended probably to February 20. That written notice will be out tomorrow  
4 I believe and there are comment forms right here if you'd like to leave them.  
5 There are meetings on the 20th of January in Seattle, the 22nd in Richland,  
6 and February 12th in Hood River has been rescheduled. Thank you all for  
7 coming and staying. And let's adjourn.  
8  
9

✓ Kate Brown - State Senator #1  
 ✓ Frank Shields - State Representative

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
 Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
 Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
 Portland, January 14, 1998**

of 149, 150  
 state (5)  
 of 1, 3

Name	Organization	Check if Presented
✓ Dave Johnson	Self	✓
✓ Rochelle Giddings	Self	✓
✓ William Giddings	Self	✓
<del>Gerry Rollet</del>	Heart of Clatsop	<del>✓</del> ✓
<del>Robin Klein</del>	Hanford Action OR	<del>✓</del> ✓
<del>Greg Kaboray</del>	Don't Waste OR	<del>✓</del> ✓
<del>Michael Honk</del>	Hanford Action OR	<del>✓</del> ✓
<del>Chuck Johnson</del>	Hanford Action OR	<del>✓</del> ✓
<del>Lloyd Martz</del>	Hanford Action OR	<del>✓</del> ✓
<del>Bill Mead</del>	Hanford Action OR	<del>✓</del> ✓
<del>Tom (Arp)</del>	Govt. Account. Proj.	<del>✓</del> ✓
Kristen Bifus	Govt Account Proj.	✓
Bill Bires	N.W. Water / Fish Watch	✓
Vera Datoe	Self	✓
Reed Behrens	Oregon Clean Water Coalition	✓
<del>J. Brown</del>	<del>Cancelled</del>	<del>—</del>
Donald Fontenot	Self	① no show
Susan Sheets	Self	② no show
Steve Abeling	Self	③ ✓
Kelly Brignell	Public	(+) no show

Pub Safety

Skip MA 400

N.W. 20, 1000

#2

Please Print

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Portland, January 14, 1998**

Name	Organization	Check if Presented
Alicia Kallstrom	WILPF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
Nary Sievertsen		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
William L. Wilson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO SHOW
Steve Buckert		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
Paige Levent	HCA NW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
Stephen Kaplan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
Breana Satterfield		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
Josh Hill	Physicians for Social Responsibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
BERT HANSEN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
MARY MAYTHEK-SLAC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
MARY ROSE	WILPF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
Rudi Nussbaum	NW Rad. Health Alliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
JEFF DAVIES		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO SHOW
DAVE HYSKO		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
Kristin Mangro		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO SHOW
KATE BROWN	State Senate #7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Dawn Tryon	Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO SHOW
Danny Merrick		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓
Bruce Frazier	Hanford Watch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓

FIRST

Please Print

#3

Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
 Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
 Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
 Portland, January 14, 1998

Name	Organization	Check if Presented
<del>Joe Wietick</del>	<del>OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL</del>	
Reuben Nisenfeld	None	✓
<del>Kathleen Inergens</del>	<del>None</del>	<del>Cancel</del>
Patrick Norton	NONE	no show
Paul McAdams	NONE	✓
J. S. Kierfeld	None	✓
Christine Charnish	- 2	no show
BILLY WOLF	—	✓
JACQUELINE FEEN	SELF	no show
Alexandra Grayen	—	✓
Scott Bendoroff	"	no show
JOYCE FOLLINGSTAD	"	✓
Chris Steele	"	no show
MARK JO HOSACK RW	SELF	no show
Sherrin Shell	self	no show
Jim Bax		
<del>Robert Hollund</del>		✓
Monica Serrano	self	no show
Ruth CURRIE	Self	✓
Nancy Tram	Self	✓





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**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Portland, January 14, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
LORI (Tonzale)	P.O. Box 6541, Alder, OR 97007
Tom Cuddy	4036 SE Boise Pkwy OR 97202
JOHN GILSON	6012 S.W. KELLY PDX 97201
Gregory Smith	2140 Volpp, West Lim, OR 97068
ARTHUR J. BULLIS	11795 SW BRUCE OR. 97008
Sully Markowitz	742 SW VISTA #52 PORTLAND OR
Larry Burt	3227 NE 49th Ave PDX 97213
Pitsch, Debbie	9100 SW 91st Ave #D-2 Portland, OR 97223
Nan Stark	1905 SE 54th Ave. Portland 97215
Jill Ann Slie	4409 NE 37th Portland OR 97211
BILL Beebe	8334 SW Capitol Hwy Portland
Robin Woolman	13038 SW. 61st Portland OR 97219
Fred Nassbaum	6510 SW Barnes Rd Portland OR 97225
Niane TWETEN	4359 NE Flanders' PTZ, OR 97213
Tony LASKA	3132 NE 22nd AVE., PORTLAND OR. 97212
Peter Lavigne Watershed Consultants	3714 SE 14th Ave Portland 97202
JACK SPADARO	2234 SE GRANT ST., PORTLAND, OR 97214
Ed Matigas RN	53215 Timber Rd Vernon OR 97064
Marcia Meyers	1895 N.W. 5th Gresham 97030
Olivier Wortel	2802 SE Monroe Milwaukie

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Portland, January 14, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Le White <sup>Earth on the Air</sup> <del>Independent Media</del>	4317 EVANSTON AVE N Seattle WA 98103
Alexandra Gayek, ND	8316 SE Yamhill St, Portland 97216
Sally Ann Wells	7835 SW 82 <sup>nd</sup> Ave PDX 97223
Jim Baldwin	3364 - SE 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave Portland 97202
Marge Leachford	11325 SE Yamhill Pdx 97216
Ruth O. Currie	5150 SW <sup>B2-303</sup> LANDING AVE PDX 97201
Bob Lussery	441 S.E. 37 <sup>th</sup> Portland 97225
Rick Bayer, MD	6800 SW Canyon Dr Portland 97225
Robert <del>Lee Anne Holman</del> Pierce	1615 SW Morrison # 317, PDX 97205
Mike Dill	1322 SE Morrison, PDX 97123
Martin C. Evans	3926 SE NEHALEM, PDX 97202
Barbara Pereira	1213 SE Umatilla 97202
Christina Glenn	7159 SW 5th Ave, Portland 97219
Fredrick J. Thomas	3050 S.W. 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue HZ 97225
Man E. Reitz	450 Workman Dr. Woodburn, OR 97071
DONALD L. GRANGER	4269 NE Simpson Ct Pdx 97218
Andy Davis	226 SE 76 <sup>th</sup> Pdx OR 97225
Jill FULFISTER <sup>COLUMBIA GROUP</sup> <del>SIERRA CLUB</del>	3701 SE Milwaukie, Suite F PDX 97202
Matt Burke	3725 SE Francis PDX 97202
Johnnie Wilk Pong Pili	10000 SE 94 <sup>th</sup> Pdx 97269
Ann Brodie-Kruspe	3379 NE Multnomah St Pdx, OR 97231

**Portland, January 14, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Dave Johnson - Self	Po Box 1034 Enumclaw WA 98022
W.P. Mead	Pob 724 Portland 97207
Tom Carpenter	1402 3 <sup>RD</sup> AVE. STE 12- SEATTLE 98101
Kristen Britts	" "
Robert Russell	12406 SE Stephens St, Port. 97233
Sally Bries	8330 S.W. 2 <sup>ND</sup> Ave 97219.
Vera L Daboe	9449 SW 62nd Dr. 97219
Tim Brown	3407 NE 27 <sup>TH</sup> . PDX 97212
SUSAN Sheets	1633 SE 51 <sup>ST</sup> PDX 97215
William Wilson	1747 SW Sunset Blvd. Pdx 97201
Kelly Brignell	" "
A. Lickner 1071	7610 N.W. Milner Way Pdx 97225
Mary Swenson	7705 SW Minnehwy Pdx 97225
Greg Robert	30621 S. Stone Rd Vanby, OR 97011
Jerry Felt	30621 S. Stone Rd Corvallis, OR 97013
Nikki Jonas	1708 NW 106th St Vanc. WA 98685
Christine Charneski	232 NE Fargo Portland OR 97212
Stephen Kaplan	3635 SW 87 <sup>TH</sup> , #1/2 Portland, OR 97225
Leil Greenfield	445 NW Greendale Rd. Portland 97219
Mary/Margherita	38701 SE Lusted Rd Boring OR 97009

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Portland, January 14, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
J. M. TOOMEY	3725 SW MARQUAM HILL RD
Steve Hurling	7619 SW LOCUST PDX 97223
Donald Fontenot	2230 SE Oak ST PDX 97214
J. M. Toomey	10544 NE Grand AVE 97211
J. H. Soderfeld	3128 NE Alameda Dr 97212
Thomas Lifschitz	3520 SW FALCON per 97219
Loni Greenfield	455 N.W. Greenleaf Rd. <sup>PDX</sup> 97229
Skip Mathew	811 E. Burnside St. #214, PDX, OR 97214
Dennis Hayes	1212 Minor, Seattle WA 98101
Susan Schwartz	2507 E Mill Plain <sup>Van</sup> #15 <sup>98601</sup>
Theresa Mitchell	2375 WINTER ST SE.
DAVID WYCKO	4803 NE 18 <sup>th</sup> AVE PDX 97211
Kristin Mangino	8506 N.E. 12 <sup>th</sup> St. Vancouver WA. 98664-192
JAMES BOCCI	1906 NE RIDGEWOOD DR PDX 97212
Steve March	842 NE 44 <sup>th</sup> Ave PDX 97213
Charles Starr	8330 S.W. River Rd Hillsboro 97123
BRAD GAZZOLINO	6451 SE MORRISON CT Portland OR 97215
Keith Oderman	10232 NW Village Hts Dr. Port OR 97229
David Wilkins	6533 SW 34 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Portland 97201-1077
Reuben Nisenfeld	5816 NE Fremont PDX 97213
Robin Klein	6226 SE Ash PDX 97215

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Portland, January 14, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Lee Anne Prevorse	1615 SW Morrison #317 PDX 97205
Jerry Channell	4106 NE 10 <sup>th</sup> PDX, OR 97211
M Tom & Sherry Lipton	2216 NE 50 <sup>th</sup> Ave. PDX, OR. 97213
Bill Boese	2127 N. Albion Dr 97212
John Godfrey	2534 <del>th</del> S.W. Ravensview Dr., Pdx 97201
Jan Griffiths	7706 N. Emerald, Portland 97217
Jim Smith	" " " "
4+ Marilyn Maruca	2545 N.E. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Ave PDX 97213
Jim Amarak	2147 NE 10 <sup>th</sup> 97212
Barbara MALQUAIN	4820 SW Ballou #57 Pdx 97201
Barbara Rotten	4220 NE 65 <sup>th</sup> PDX OR 97218
JAMES Brunkow	4267 NE Ainsworth St 97218
Paul Roland	#1906 SW Iowa Portland 97201
Allison FEDER	3756 SE Stephens 97214
Peter Litson	Portland OR
E. Myers	3143 NE Couch St Pdx OR
Alberta Heronold	3438 N.E. Gares St Pdx 97232
Mary Delling	3206 NE 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Pdx 97212
Daphne Brundage	2164 N.W. Ashmun Pdx 97210
Ken Margolis	14019 NW Newberry Road Pt. 97231

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Portland, January 14, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Phil Mitchell	333 S.E. 45th Ave. PDX 97215
Billy Wolf	2004 SE 72 <sup>nd</sup> PDX 97215
Eliza Lindsay	3809 NE 9th PDX 97212
Carol Baker (Hill)	684 SW Mayfield PDX 97209
Maxine Hines	5113 SE Taylor St Portland 97215
Lynn Sims DWO	3959 NE 42 Pdx OR 97213
Matthew Berglund	9678 SW Ventura LT Tigard OR 97225
Raeann Word	2235 N. Alberta PDX 97217
Cynthia Rodriguez	P.O.B. 12684 Pdx 97212
Paul Richmond	P0454 PDX 97207
Chuck Johnson <sup>Hanford Section</sup> of Ore.	2852 High St. SE, Salem, OR 97302
Joan Horton	0234 SW Curry, Portland 97201
Loren Fawell	P.O. 4111 Pdx OR 97208
JOHN PITSCHE	9100 SW 91st Ave #0-2 PDX 97223
CHERIE HOLEN STEIN	6141 SE Steele PDX 97206
Michael O'Rourke	2737 NE 25th PDX 97212
STEPHEN GAROLO	3307 SE Astor Pdx 97201
Margot Burnett	9912 SW 25th Ave Pdx 97219
Laurie Musbaum	2393 S.W. Park Place Pdx. 97205
Deirdre B. ...	3206 NE 15th Ave Portland 97218



**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Portland, January 14, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Don Elden	50 Ken Pkwy, Lake Oswego, OR 97035
Kathleen Jurgens	PO Box 3814, Portland OR 97208
Patrick W. Norton	3229 NE 7th Portland OR 97232
TERRY HAMMOND	4549 NE 20th PORTLAND 97211
Brita Johnson	2525 SE 34th Ave Portland OR
Paul McAdams	6518 SE Division Portland OR 97206
Rich Schwartz, Lile Odell	5304 SW Cameron Portland 97221
Marianne Brisonick	16790 NW Copeland St. PDX 97229
Jerry Shumaker	3375 SE Brooklyn Portland 97202
Caylor Roling	NE Portland
JACQUELINE FERN	6433 SE 19TH AVE
Scott Banderoff	5036 SE Mitchell Pdx 97206
JOYCE FOLLINGSTAD	2123 NE 53rd PDX 97213
Chris Steele	4911 SE Cora Portland send no mailings!
Mary McCarty	3809 NE 15th PDX 97212
Robert Hollings	7805 SE Market 97215
Mamie SORIANO	1248 SW Chicago Pl Aloha OR 97006
NL Tran	1310 SW Pine PDX OR
Richard Harmon	1244 NE 39 PDX 97232
Margaret Collins	4034 SE Hawthorn St 97221
Allen C. Evans	3926 SE Nehalem Portland 97202

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility**  
**Transition Milestones Public Meeting**  
**Sign-In Sheet**  
**Portland, January 14, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Rochelle Giddings	12211 C St S Tacoma, WA 98444-5118
William Giddings	"
Paige Leven	3926 Woodland Pk Seattle WA 98103
Lorin B. Breen	6836 NE Grand Ave Portland OR 97211
Valerie McDonald	20377 S Beaver Creek Rd, Oregon City OR 97045
James R. Leaman	11717 SE Beckman Ave, Milwaukie OR 97222
Steve Buchert	2028 SW Moss St Port 97219
Steve Klausman anti-nucl	
ERIK Jans	1708 NW 106 Street Vane 98685
Erika Troseth KBOO	20 SE 8th Avenue Portland 97214
CHARLES HOLZWEISSIG	6427 SE 17th AVE. PORTLAND 97202
William Henry Cook	2237 NE Clackamas Portland 97232
Dawn Tryon	2450 NE Halsey Street Pk 97232
Nancy Metrick	2031 NW Johnson St Portland OR 97209
Donna Strayer	2012 SE Hemlock, PDX 97214
JOE WALICKI	OIEC 520 SW 6th, #940 Portland, 97204
Darren Fisher	229 Saint, Richland, WA 99352
Victoria Payne	22732 NW Gilligan Rd PDX, OR 97231
Rebecca Douglas	2245 SE Brooklyn, Port, OR 97202
ROLF A. SKAR	2525 SE 34th Ave. Port. 97202

**Portland, January 14, 1998**

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**Portland, January 14, 1998**

## ATTENDANCE

[illegible]

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT PUBLIC MEETING FOR FFTF  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
JANUARY 20, 1998

Panel Members:

Tom Carpenter - Government Accountability Project  
Ernie Hughes - U.S. Department of Energy  
Gerald Pollet - Heart of America Northwest  
Pat Serie - Moderator  
Roger Stanley - Washington State Department of Ecology  
Mike Wilson - Washington State Department of Ecology  
Jon Yerxa - U.S. Department of Energy

Pat Serie:

Good evening everyone. Please be seated and welcome to the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement public meeting. My name is Pat Serie. I'm going to be the moderator for tonight and for these meetings. This is the second in a series of four meetings.

Our purpose tonight is to describe and, most importantly, to hear your comments on a proposal to revise the Tri-Party Agreement, which is the regulatory blueprint for Hanford cleanup. That revision is proposed to reflect a change in status for Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility or the FFTF. We're going to try to minimize acronyms, but FFTF seems to be pretty well understood.

As many of you know, the Tri-Party Agreement contains milestones for deactivating FFTF. That deactivation process has been suspended and may or may not begin again. The three Tri-Party agencies (the Washington Department of Ecology, which is the lead agency on this issue, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy) are asking for your comments on whether the deactivation milestones should be revised. The proposed change package was available out in the lobby.

It should be noted that the closing date for public comments on it has been extended to February 20. As some of you may know, the Hood River meeting last week had to be canceled because of the snow, and it's been rescheduled for February 12, and so the public comment period will go till February 20. I know there are strong feelings about whether or not FFTF should ultimately be restarted. I ask you to remember that the one question that needs to be answered tonight for these agencies is whether or not to change the TPA milestones. So please be sure to provide your comments on that question.

We have structured the meeting to provide the bulk of our time to hear from you and get that on the record. We will first have a brief description of the status of the FFTF standby process and the background on the proposed changes to the Tri-Party Agreement. We will hear an alternative viewpoint to that

2 proposal on the milestone changes from a couple of local interest groups and  
3 we will take just a brief time for clarifying questions. Our purpose tonight  
4 is to hear from you and get that on the record, so only clarifications from  
5 the speakers if you will be sure we have good information to start forth on  
6 the comments.

7 We will not be asking the agencies to respond to your comments tonight. We  
8 want to reserve the time for them to hear and absorb them, but the session is  
9 being recorded. All questions and comments will receive a written response  
10 after the meeting. So we anticipate being able to start public comment by at  
11 least 7:45.

12  
13 Based on the probably 130 people who have signed up so far to speak, we're  
14 going to ask that one person representing an organization speak for that  
15 organization and we're going to limit that to five minutes. If you are an  
16 individual we'd ask that you limit your comments to three minutes. Written  
17 comments are also very welcome.

18  
19 We are scheduled to end at 9:30. It doesn't look good. The agencies have  
20 agreed to stay as long as necessary, both to hear comments and afterwards to  
21 answer questions one-on-one if that would be helpful.

22  
23 If you have not signed up to speak and change your mind during the meeting,  
24 please see the people at the back table because we have a running list and  
25 we're going first-come, first-serve.

26  
27 I would ask that all of you respect the rights of the speakers and your  
28 neighbors to hold your opinions or your input until your allotted time. My  
29 job is to just keep us on schedule and to be sure that we have a chance to  
30 hear from everyone who wants to speak tonight. So I will let you know when we  
31 need to move on to the next person.

32  
33 Let me introduce the people at the table tonight. The first two are  
34 Roger Stanley and Mike Wilson with the Washington Department of Ecology;  
35 Ernie Hughes with the Department of Energy; Gerald Pollet with Heart of  
36 America Northwest; Tom Carpenter with the Government Accountability Project;  
37 and Jon Yerxa with the Department of Energy. We're going to let you guess as  
38 to Mr. Pollet's feelings on this issue.

39  
40 What we're going to do first is have a brief presentation by Ernie Hughes on  
41 the situation with FFTF and its standby situation. Then a few minutes from  
42 Roger Stanley and then we'll go to Gerry and Tom for the alternative  
43 viewpoints. So Ernie, do you want to go ahead? One moment please.

44  
45 Ernie Hughes:

46 Can you hear me now? OK. Good evening. In addition to my responsibilities  
47 as the Director of the FFTF Project Office, I'm here tonight, along with  
48 Jon Yerxa, as the Department of Energy's Tri-Party Agreement representative.  
49 I've also brought along several technical experts from Hanford in case you  
50 have specific questions about FFTF either during or after the meeting.

1 There's a change in the status of FFTF and tonight we're here to explain  
2 proposed revisions to the Tri-Party Agreement milestones that result from that  
3 change. The proposed milestones revision is not a decision to restart the  
4 reactor. The proposed revision simply reflects that FFTF has gone from  
5 deactivation to standby status until it is decided that the facility is needed  
6 to support the nation's requirements for tritium. My remarks will be brief to  
7 allow maximum time for you to ask questions and to provide comments on the  
8 proposed action.  
9

10 For those of you who may not be familiar with FFTF, it is a 400-megawatt  
11 sodium-cooled reactor built in the 1970s, started up in 1980, and operated to  
12 test liquid metal reactor technology components and systems from 1982 to 1992.  
13 The reactor is located at the Hanford Site, four miles west of the Columbia  
14 River. Unlike the production reactors at Hanford, the FFTF does not take  
15 water from the Columbia. It does not discharge effluents to the Columbia, nor  
16 does it discharge radioactive effluents to the ground by the surface or  
17 subsurface.  
18

19 Pat Serie:

20 I've heard Ernie do this; it takes him about seven minutes. So if we could  
21 let him finish please. There will be plenty of time for comment.  
22

23 Ernie Hughes:

24 Thank you. In the early 1990s there was no identified mission for FFTF. So  
25 in December 1993, the Department of Energy issued a formal shutdown order for  
26 the facility. The Tri-Party Agreement agencies in July 1995 established a set  
27 of deactivation milestones since the Department of Energy had decided that  
28 FFTF no longer had a mission. Staff at FFTF moved forward with the  
29 deactivation program that safely defueled the reactor and placed many of the  
30 systems in a shutdown condition.  
31

32 In late 1995, Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary received an unsolicited  
33 privatization proposal to take over the FFTF and with private funding, produce  
34 tritium and sell it back to the government. In the proposal the revenue from  
35 the tritium production would be used to expand FFTF's capability to produce  
36 medical isotopes.  
37

38 Tritium production is essential to maintain our nation's current stockpile of  
39 nuclear weapons. One half of the tritium is lost through radioactive decay  
40 every 12.3 years. The United States last produced tritium in 1988. That  
41 source, the K Reactor at Savannah River, is no longer available. In late  
42 1995, the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Council and the President determined that a new  
43 tritium source is needed by the year 2005. The Department of Energy is  
44 responsible for providing tritium to the Department of Defense and therefore,  
45 is caught in a dilemma.  
46

47 The two current tritium production options each have major issues. The  
48 accelerator option requires billions of dollars in funding out of a flat  
49 Department of Energy budget. The use of a commercial light water reactor for  
50 tritium production requires controversial Congressional legislation. In

1 addition, the need for tritium could change if the Russians ratify the  
2 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty Number II Agreement, the need could also  
3 change if there are new negotiations.  
4

5 Faced with this dilemma, the Secretary stopped the irreversible step of  
6 draining the sodium from FFTF and commissioned independent reviews to look at  
7 the technical and economic feasibility of using the facility. Those reviews  
8 indicate that FFTF could safely and economically produce tritium on an interim  
9 basis.  
10

11 In January 1997, the Secretary of Energy issued DOE's decision to maintain  
12 FFTF in standby mode pending a decision to be made by December 1998 on whether  
13 or not the facility will play a role in the nation's tritium production  
14 strategy. Today the FFTF reactor is completely defueled. Detailed technical,  
15 economic, safety, and environmental analyses to help the Secretary make a  
16 decision have been completed. Reports of those analyses were issued  
17 December 1, and are publicly available.  
18

19 Currently, FFTF is being limited to activities that will not inhibit a reactor  
20 restart and therefore, the original schedules, which were the basis for the  
21 Tri-Party Agreement milestones, are no longer applicable. The TPA milestones  
22 affected by the decision to maintain FFTF in standby are described in the fact  
23 sheet that was available in the back of the room. The M-81 series cover the  
24 physical deactivation of the facility and the M-20 series cover formal closure  
25 of the environmental permits.  
26

27 Recognizing the January 1997 change in facility status and deactivation  
28 standby, the Tri-Party agencies agreed to negotiate revised TPA milestones.  
29

30 The Hanford Advisory Board was briefed on the need for these changes in July.  
31 In October, the TPA agencies reached tentative agreement to delete the  
32 milestones. The agencies also agreed that if the Secretary decides FFTF is to  
33 resume the shutdown process, negotiations on new deactivation milestone dates  
34 will be initiated within 90 days.  
35

36 The Department of Energy also has stated that it intends to establish and  
37 maintain the management and funding responsibility for FFTF under the Office  
38 of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology starting in fiscal year 1999 through  
39 shutdown.  
40

41 And finally, any environmental compliance issues relative to FFTF will  
42 continue to be addressed through the Washington State Department of Ecology's  
43 Sitewide Compliance Assurance Program. In conclusion, FFTF status is changed  
44 from deactivation to standby. The three agencies agreed the best way to deal  
45 with this change is the proposed agreement revising the milestones. Let me  
46 emphasize again the proposed decision to revise the milestone is not the  
47 decision to restart the facility. Any decision of that nature could occur  
48 only after the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement with full  
49 public involvement.  
50



1 We look forward to your questions and comments here tonight, either orally or  
2 by using the comment forms in the back. The three agencies will use the input  
3 that is focused directly on this change to revise the input that is focused  
4 directly on the change and final agreement. We expect that some of your input  
5 might go beyond the specific focus of the TPA change request into national  
6 policy issues of tritium need and future uses of Hanford. We will make sure  
7 that all your comments are provided to the appropriate Department of Energy  
8 officials. In addition to your comments tonight, I encourage to you to write  
9 to me directly or send electronic correspondence if you have any questions,  
10 opinions, concerns, or issues related to the Fast Flux Test Facility. Thank  
11 you very much.

12  
13 Pat Serie:

14 Thank you, Ernie. OK. As I indicated, Roger Stanley is the responsible  
15 official here tonight with Department of Ecology, which is the lead agency on  
16 this proposed change. Roger, are you indicating you want to sit there and  
17 talk? I think it might be easier as far back as we go, Roger, if you went to  
18 the podium. Thank you. And again, please let's let Roger finish so we can  
19 get on to the public comment just as quickly as possible.

20  
21 Roger Stanley:

22 OK. Thank you, Pat. I've been asked to give a brief perspective by the  
23 Department of Ecology. First of all, my name is Roger Stanley. I work with  
24 the Department of Ecology on Tri-Party Agreement negotiation and policy  
25 issues. I'd like to comment briefly on three aspects of this issue. First of  
26 all, the issue of a potential FFTF reactor restart. The second on the  
27 Tri-Party Agreement itself. And the third on the Tri-Party's tentative  
28 agreement to delete the currently out-of-date deactivation milestone series.

29  
30 First of all, I would like to recognize the importance of the issue of a  
31 potential restart. Restart, and all the various issues that it raises, should  
32 be of concern to all of us. They are certainly of concern to the Department  
33 of Ecology. The Department of Ecology plans to express its concerns formally  
34 regarding any restart proposal if and when the Department of Energy decides to  
35 formally consider FFTF operations and proceeds with evaluation under an  
36 Environmental Impact Statement process. DOE has not made that decision to  
37 date. DOE has not made the decision yet to carry FFTF as an alternative under  
38 an Environmental Impact Statement. Should it do so, I expect that Department  
39 of Ecology concerns would include issues such as the environmental impacts,  
40 any waste that would be generated, how they would be managed, potential  
41 impacts to the Hanford cleanup effort overall, and intersite waste issues.

42  
43 Secondly, I would like to note that the Tri-Party Agreement is an  
44 exceptionally important document to the Department of Ecology. We treat it as  
45 a covenant between the state, the people of the Pacific Northwest, and the  
46 federal government to clean up the Hanford Site. We are exceptionally careful  
47 to keep its focus on its basic purposes: cleanup of Hanford and compliance  
48 with environmental law. As far as the Tri-Party's tentative agreement to  
49 delete the current TPA FFTF deactivation milestones, we have tentatively  
50 agreed to deletion because first of all, FFTF is no longer in deactivation.

1 The milestones are out-of-date. Secondly, because as one of the three  
2 managing agencies of the Tri-Party Agreement, we do not like to leave  
3 enforceable milestones on the books but take no action. It damages the  
4 overall integrity of the TPA.  
5

6 Third, because the decision to stop shutdown and to put FFTF in standby was  
7 not a Tri-Party Agreement decision. It was not one over which the Department  
8 of Ecology had authority. It was a decision made legally by the Secretary of  
9 Energy under the Secretary's authority.  
10

11 Fourth, because if DOE decides to pursue consideration of startup, that  
12 decision also will not be made through a Tri-Party Agreement process. If DOE  
13 proceeds, and as Ernie Hughes noted, it is legally bound to pursue that  
14 consideration through an open and public environmental impact process. I  
15 would also like to point out that our tentative agreement is not simply a  
16 proposal to delete the current FFTF milestones. The proposal really has four  
17 parts. The first is the deletion of the out-of-date milestones. The second  
18 is a subsequent agreement to reinstate adjusted milestones should the decision  
19 be that shutdown should continue. The third element is a recognition that  
20 during this period of interim consideration FFTF is not exempt from  
21 environmental law and any environmental compliance issues will be addressed  
22 through the Department of Ecology's Sitewide Compliance Assurance Program.  
23 And finally, agreement that if the decision is to proceed with FFTF shutdown,  
24 shutdown costs will be paid by DOE's Nuclear Energy program, not by the  
25 cleanup budget per se.  
26

27 I would also like to comment briefly on the overall funding issue. It is one  
28 that is of great concern to the Department of Ecology. We naturally spend a  
29 lot of our time focused on keeping the Hanford cleanup efforts underway and  
30 making sure that the inertia behind each of those cleanup projects is not  
31 lost. Cleanup is the mission at Hanford and needs to continue to be the focus  
32 of site activities.  
33

34 Finally, I want to make it clear that Ecology recognizes the importance of  
35 these FFTF issues and that we have an open mind. That's what public comment  
36 periods are for. We believe that because of the importance of this issue,  
37 discussion needs to be out in front of the public. I also want to note that  
38 the Department of Ecology will be forwarding copies of all comments received  
39 to the office of the Governor. Finally, I want to thank you all for taking  
40 the time to attend and I look forward to your comments. Thank you.  
41

42 Pat Serie:

43 Thank you, Roger. OK. With that background on the proposal, I would like to  
44 ask Gerald Pollet to speak on the alternative viewpoint to the proposal.  
45 He'll be followed by Tom Carpenter.  
46

47 Gerald Pollet:

48 Thank you all for coming here. Tonight is very important for each and every  
49 one of you, our children, the future of our region, protecting the Columbia  
50 River, everything that ...

002261

Inaudible

002261

3 Gerald Pollet:

4 ... worked together with us who have done research, etc. about Hanford. We've  
5 worked together to try to make sure Hanford's mission was cleanup, not  
6 weapons. The Secretaries of Energy's come out to Hanford repeatedly and said  
7 Hanford's mission is cleanup. Hanford's mission needs to be cleanup. Your  
8 presence here tonight might help make sure that it returns to cleanup. But  
9 the consequences of what we're talking about tonight are frightening and it  
10 would be devastating to cleanup if FFTF is exempted from the Hanford cleanup  
11 agreement and if FFTF is restarted. And you must not be fooled tonight. The  
12 Department of Energy's proposal is to restart the FFTF nuclear reactor to make  
13 tritium, the H in the H-bomb, for 30 years. Anything else they say is an add  
14 on, but it's primary mission, and the only thing that they say justifies its  
15 restart, is nuclear weapons production.

16  
17 Now, I'm going to throw out a few of my slides ...

18  
19 Inaudible

20  
21 Gerald Pollet:

002261

22 ... things that I just heard. The Department of Ecology's representative  
23 Roger Stanley said today that this is not a Tri-Party Agreement decision; it  
24 is a decision made legally by the Secretary of Energy. It is not a decision  
25 made legally by the Secretary of Energy. You all had a document that was  
26 supposed to protect each and every one of us: the Hanford cleanup agreement,  
27 also known as the TPA. Each and every one of us was assured that this would  
28 be honored. And instead, well, things are upside down at Hanford, folks.  
29 Instead of honoring it, the Secretary of Energy unilaterally decided in  
30 January 1997 to put the FFTF reactor on hot standby for a weapons mission,  
31 illegally paying for that with your cleanup dollars and the State of  
32 Washington has done nothing. And if the Secretary of Energy can unilaterally  
33 decide this facility goes back into weapons production despite the fact that  
34 they signed an agreement that's supposed to be legally enforceable and  
35 binding--that said we will shut down that reactor and clean it up on a  
36 guaranteed time line. And when we're done, the annual cost of maintaining it  
37 will go into Hanford cleanup--higher cleanup priorities. And instead, this  
38 hearing tonight is about whether or not the Secretary of Energy gets to decide  
39 on his or her own to do this. 'Cause that's what's left of the Tri-Party  
40 Agreement. If they get to decide on their own, you're supposed to be  
41 protected. There are good reasons why it was put in the Hanford cleanup  
42 agreement. And if it is exempted, it is the only legal regulatory hurdle  
43 external to the Department of Energy standing between this man's program and  
44 restart of the reactor. For all that BS you just heard, and it is BS about  
45 doing an EIS before the decisions are made, the bottom line is their own  
46 Defense Program wrote a memo, the Department of Energy's Defense Program wrote  
47 a memo saying that we were right that they needed to do the Environmental  
48 Impact Statement before now because they are making the decisions about  
49 restart and whether or not FFTF is a part of a larger tritium production  
50 strategy now. So, what is this about in terms of what you can do about it

2 now. Governor Locke has said, "I don't support FFTF restart if it hurts  
3 cleanup, diverts cleanup money, doesn't have external regulation, doesn't have  
4 contemporary safety standards, there's no EIS," and he says that he "opposes  
5 the import of plutonium." It fails on every count.

6 Pat Serie:

7 Gerry, if Tom's going to have five minutes, probably not much more, please.  
8

9 Gerald Pollet:

10 To run the FFTF reactor there are a few facts that Mr. Hughes left out. And  
11 you won't find them in their fact sheets. To run the FFTF reactor, the  
12 Department of Energy needs to import into this state, in violation of existing  
13 state policy, 33 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium. And then they have  
14 to process it with the most dangerous and high-risk processes in the entire  
15 nuclear weapons complex to turn it into reactor fuel that will be 40 to 50%  
16 plutonium. And it will create large new waste streams. And guess what?  
17 It'll cost our Hanford cleanup budget, which the Department of Energy in its  
18 infinite wisdom, has decided to cap. It will not even increase for inflation  
19 over the next ten years according to Department of Energy, but your cleanup  
20 budget will pay to hold and care and store those wastes. What kind of wastes  
21 are we talking about? Mr. Hughes didn't mention 66 metric tons of high-level  
22 nuclear waste--spent nuclear fuel--that will be the most unstable reactive  
23 high-level nuclear waste ever created probably. That cannot be stored safely  
24 long-term anywhere. And the cleanup budget will have to pay for it. And we  
25 in this region get to bill all the additional risks. Governor Locke said,  
26 "any proposal to keep the FFTF on hot standby or to restart it must not divert  
27 effort in resources away from Hanford cleanup." It's pretty good criteria, so  
28 what is happening? Let's judge them by their actual performance to-date.  
29 FFTF is robbing the Hanford cleanup budget of 32 million dollars this year to  
30 keep it on hot standby. It robbed it of 32 million dollars last year to keep  
31 it on hot standby and the year before. Now it's time to pay back the hundred  
32 million.  
33

34 Pat Serie:

35 Gerry, can you finish please?  
36

37 Gerald Pollet:

38 Our challenge is to urge Roger Stanley and Mike Wilson from the State  
39 Department of Ecology to go forward with the backing of the people of this  
40 state and tell the Department of Energy we're not exempting the FFTF reactor.  
41 Instead, we're returning to the negotiation table to negotiate the enforceable  
42 time line on which you will pay back the 100 million you've diverted from  
43 Hanford cleanup already.  
44

45 Pat Serie:

46 Gerry, can you let Tom go? Gerry, if you can finish please so Tom gets a  
47 chance.  
48  
49

002261

002261

1 Gerald Pollet:

002261

2 I'm just going to put up one more slide. The total cost of FFTF hot standby  
3 and restart to Hanford cleanup we've been estimating--it's hard to because the  
4 Department of Energy refuses to make public in response to Freedom of  
5 Information Act requests--the waste streams that it will create. We've been  
6 going through their records and we've had support from this from the  
7 Department of Ecology and it's clear that when you add up the 100 million  
8 they've already taken, the money that in the Tri-Party Agreement the  
9 Department of Energy committed to put back into cleanup (the cost of  
10 maintaining the reactor), the actual language reached the 1995 tentative  
11 agreement commitment, that they will put the money spent on maintaining the  
12 reactor into "higher priority environmental management activities."  
13

14 Roger, you probably negotiated that language. That commitment has to be  
15 honored and if you heard Mr. Hughes say we're moving, we're taking the money  
16 out of cleanup, transferring it to the Nuclear Energy budget and the bottom  
17 line is, that's another 256 million dollars taken out of the Hanford cleanup  
18 budget to support a weapons program. When you add in all the wastes, the  
19 total cost of Hanford cleanup, just between now and the next ten years, will  
20 have been over one billion dollars.  
21

22 There's one last thought here. Thirty-two million dollars being robbed of the  
23 Hanford cleanup budget this year, folks. Comparison: the man Ernie Hughes  
24 works for, the head of the Hanford program, John Wagoner, was quoted in the  
25 paper saying, Hanford cleanup budget "cannot afford" to pay for medical  
26 monitoring of the Hanford downwinders. The Centers for Disease Control and  
27 the ATSDR have designed a program and they estimate it would save six to eight  
28 lives each year if we just spend 12 million dollars a year on medical  
29 monitoring of the Hanford downwinders.  
30

31 Pat Serie:

32 Gerry, we need to finish, please.  
33

34 Gerald Pollet:

35 This man is part of the people who have made a choice. That choice is to  
36 spend your Hanford cleanup money not on saving lives, but on a weapons  
37 mission. And that choice will condemn to death six to eight people this year  
38 and next year.  
39

002261

40 Pat Serie:

41 Tom Carpenter, Government Accountability Project.  
42

43 Tom Carpenter:

44 I'll just take a minute or two. I'm with the Government Accountability  
45 Project. We represent whistleblowers at the Hanford Site and throughout the  
46 federal government. We've been doing that for about ten years, and as such,  
47 we've made a study of what Hanford is up to with your taxpayer money and with  
48 our public health and safety. We decided to take a look at the FFTF reactor  
49 after a small company called ANMS decided to propose to privatize this reactor  
50 several years ago so that they could run the plant to make tritium and they

002262

2 said to make medical isotopes later on. A whistleblower within their ranks  
3 named Randall Bonebrake exposed that they were trying to negotiate a secret  
4 deal with a German utility to import German breeder reactor fuel rods to run  
5 at the FFTF reactor. For this, these company officials would be paid  
6 35 million dollars. This is the reason that FFTF is on hot standby right now.  
7 It's because a small company came up with a cockamamie idea. So we decided to  
8 do a Freedom of Information Act to look at what exactly the DOE scientists and  
9 technical people thought about FFTF. And we came up with some surprising  
10 documents from an Office of Defense Programs within the Department of Energy  
11 study. We looked at that as well as something called the JASON Report. And I  
12 don't think we need to go any further to convince ourselves in the Northwest  
13 that the FFTF reactor is a safety nightmare.

14 Start with FFTF's timeline does not allow for the public process in full  
15 safety review, including testing that external regulation would require. Now  
16 think about that. No time for safety; no time for safety. There is such a  
17 hurry to make tritium out there that they can't test this reactor and assure  
18 the public that they're doing the right thing by making this a safe reactor,  
19 even assuming that we need the tritium.

20  
21 Pat Serie:

22 Tom, a couple of minutes, please. We need to move on to comment.  
23

24 Tom Carpenter:

25 Part of the standard safety case for all fast reactors such as fast flux is  
26 the analysis of worst case reactivity accidents. The Department of Energy  
27 scientists say this is essentially a bomb calculation; their words, not mine.  
28 To make the amount of tritium necessary to support operations to make tritium  
29 at FFTF, requires untested use of very high percentage of weapons-grade  
30 plutonium (up to 40%), requires changes to the core design of this reactor and  
31 it requires running a test facility as a production reactor.  
32

33 Again, DOE scientists say that the reactor could have a catastrophic meltdown.  
34 There's no way to avoid having one of two severe accident vulnerabilities  
35 leading to what they euphemistically call fuel relocation and possible  
36 recriticalities. So just in case anybody here thinks that it's a bunch of  
37 environmentalists, or radicals, or public interest groups, or people in the  
38 Northwest, upset about their taxpayer money being ripped off, opposing the  
39 FFTF, let's look at what the second in command at the Department of Energy,  
40 the Deputy Secretary, Charles Curtis, had to say to Secretary O'Leary when he  
41 evaluated whether or not FFTF should be open. He says, "I am convinced that  
42 the FFTF presents too many risks to warrant further investment or inquiry."  
43 And we think that is a decision that should be made here tonight.  
44

45 Pat Serie:

46 Thank you, Tom. And thank you for being brief. We do want to get to the  
47 public comment period, which is our primary function here tonight, and I  
48 ensure we have lots of people who want to speak. If you haven't signed up to  
49 give public comment and would like to, please go on out and do that and  
50 they'll be bringing the lists up. What we want to do now is take 15 minutes

1 (and no longer) to ask clarifying questions of the speakers if that would help  
2 you in preparing for the public comment. We're going to have to cut this off  
3 at 15 minutes so we can get to the over 100 people with comments. So I would  
4 ask that if you have a question, come on up to this mic right here, please.  
5 And remember, comments are reserved for 15 minutes from now. These are  
6 questions, please.  
7

8 Question #1 from audience:

9 I'm just curious, do we need this tritium? I mean we keep hearing that we  
10 have to have this tritium because it's got a short half-life, more or less our  
11 hydrogen bombs won't work if we don't do this, and they've shut down the other  
12 plant. So what are our alternatives to opening this plant up for tritium?  
13

14 Ernie Hughes:

15 The Nuclear Weapons Council and the President have made a determination based  
16 on the amount of nuclear weapons that have been agreed to in a treaty with the  
17 Russians that the tritium supply will need to be replenished by the year 2005.  
18 And with the time it takes to get a facility on the line, that's why its being  
19 looked at now.  
20

21 Pat Serie:

22 Gerry, do you want to comment on it, briefly?  
23

24 Gerald Pollet:

25 The only comment that I have for that number 1: FFTF was never considered to  
26 be on the track to make tritium in the first place. The federal government  
27 made the decision to make tritium at Savannah River and in other places, but  
28 not at FFTF. It was FFTF causes--commercial interests--that got the FFTF  
29 online in the first place. It was never considered in the track for making  
30 tritium. Secondly, is tritium is not necessary for nuclear weapons. It is  
31 only necessary for hydrogen bombs. It is only necessary for the city busting  
32 bombs; the big nukes out there. Even if we deprive the government of use of  
33 the tritium in some point in time, you're still going to have a nuclear  
34 arsenal, albeit not one that could wipe out Seattle in one fell swoop perhaps.  
35 So I mean whether or not there's tritium available in the future; whether or  
36 not the START II Treaty is verified, or ratified, by the Soviets, we don't  
37 need it. I mean all those are political questions that the American people  
38 need to answer. And I think it is time that we look at whether or not we have  
39 enemies necessary to utilize nuclear weapons like hydrogen bombs.  
40

41 Question #2 from audience:

42 My question is: I want to know if Hanford cleanup money is being diverted to  
43 keep FFTF on hot standby.  
44

45 Ernie Hughes:

46 Since 1991, the Environmental Management Division of Department of Energy has  
47 funded initially the operation of Hanford and then the initial shutdown and  
48 then the subsequent standbys. Each year, through the Federal budget process,  
49 a budget is requested for the FFTF and approved by the Congress through the  
50 Department of Energy. To date, although I will not take issue with the fact

002261

1 that we're spending 32 million dollars a year to maintain the facility in  
2 standby, there have been no cleanup projects that have been stopped to keep  
3 that going. Each one has been separately funded.

4  
5 Pat Serie:

6 Gerry, excuse me. Let's let them finish. Gerry, do you have a quick response  
7 also?

8  
9 Gerald Pollet:

10 Quick response, bologna. I mean let's face it, Ernie. What does the  
11 Department of Energy say is the shortfall in cleanup funds in 1998 and 1999 to  
12 meet Tri-Party Agreement commitments?  
13

14 Ernie Hughes:

15 There is a shortfall. I don't remember the exact number, but the shortfall  
16 comes when the department puts through requests to the Congress through the  
17 Office of Management and Budget.  
18

19 Gerald Pollet:

20 There is a shortfall. The department estimates between 80 to 100 million  
21 dollars to meet existing Hanford cleanup agreement commitments at a time when  
22 they are choosing to spend 32 million dollars to keep his reactor on hot  
23 standby at the sake of cleanup funds. Then the Department of Energy has a  
24 ten-year budget plan that goes into effect next year and is being submitted to  
25 Congress next month. And that ten-year plan caps the Hanford cleanup budget  
26 at slightly lower levels than it is this year. And you heard Mr. Hughes say  
27 they are transferring out of the cleanup budget the 32 million dollars that  
28 they use to keep the reactor on hot standby, into the Nuclear Energy account,  
29 which will lower permanently, the Hanford cleanup fund. However, the  
30 Tri-Party Agreement commitment signed in 1995 was that as soon as the reactor  
31 was deactivated and shut down, those monies would be "available for higher  
32 priority environmental management activities." The bottom line is, the  
33 ten-year plan adds a robbery of 256 million dollars out of the Hanford cleanup  
34 budget on top of the 100 million or so that you'll have robbed from us by the  
35 end of this year. The cost to Hanford cleanup is this: the Department of  
36 Energy this year says it can't afford to pump out the liquid high-level  
37 nuclear waste tanks before they leak.  
38

39 Pat Serie:

40 All right. Next question please.  
41

42 Question #3 from audience:

43 First a quick correction to Tom Carpenter who said that without tritium you  
44 can't make city busting bombs. Fifty years ago, we busted two cities without  
45 benefit of tritium. If we could do that in 1945, we can do that in 1998.  
46

47 My question is, what's going to happen with that 32 million dollars? Congress  
48 allocated it specifically for the Hanford cleanup. If I wanted to borrow that  
49 32 million dollars, there would be serious legal questions. Apparently if  
50 bureaucrats operating independently of Congress decide to, there's not that



1 sort of legal ramification. But have you ever talked about when you going to  
2 pay the cleanup account back for the money have already borrowed and spent?  
3 Can you tell me when that money will go back to the cleanup or are you just  
4 stealing it and not giving it back?  
5

6 Ernie Hughes:

7 The 32 million was allocated for standby and surveillance and maintenance. On  
8 top of that, there was an additional nine million dollars over the past two  
9 years nominally that was dedicated for deactivation and defueling of the  
10 reactor, the cleanup of the NE Legacy wastes, the washing and storage of the  
11 fuel, and that money was all used for those deactivation purposes. I can't  
12 give you any kind of an answer on cleanup on any pay back.  
13

14 Gerald Pollet:

15 I'm hoping that our State Department of Ecology staff will sit you down at the  
16 table and teach you that you need to honor those commitments and you can't  
17 steal. My daughter who's six learned that before she got to kindergarten and  
18 you should know that by now. Those funds were appropriated specifically for  
19 surveillance and maintenance while the reactor was being deactivated under the  
20 Tri-Party Agreement. It says so in your Congressional budget request; it says  
21 so in the actual appropriation language; and as Senator Wyden wrote to the  
22 Secretary last week, you admitted that it was illegal to use these funds last  
23 year and as a result, the Secretary of Energy sent to Congress a request to  
24 reprogram the funds which Congress rejected, further emphasizing that it is  
25 illegal for you to use those funds to keep the reactor on hot standby for a  
26 weapons mission.  
27

28 Pat Serie:

29 OK. Thank you. Next question, sir.  
30

31 Question #4 from audience:

32 Question for Mr. Stanley. Mr. Stanley, I'm an ordinary person. I struggle to  
33 survive. I don't have the time to read those fact pages of the newspapers and  
34 often not at all. I rely on the Department of Ecology to inform me. So my  
35 number one question is, and I didn't know about this until about two weeks  
36 ago, and I do try to pay attention to what's going on. Was there a press  
37 conference or press release about the deactivation being changed to standby in  
38 January 1997? That's question one; or any kind of public press notice? And  
39 two, how has Ecology improved in this state by doing this? I have to take  
40 care of the smog pollution of my vehicle, which I approve of. It's a pain in  
41 the neck sometimes. So one: was there any kind of attempt by the Department  
42 of Ecology (and realize you're the person who has to answer this, maybe you  
43 didn't make these decisions); was there any attempt to inform the public to  
44 get it into the media and they don't pick up on these things? We get harped  
45 on by all kinds of things we need to hear that. And how is the ecology in  
46 this state, the environment, improved in any way by this action?  
47

48 Roger Stanley:

49 There was not a press conference. There certainly have been press notices  
50 issued, as well as an Hanford Update and public meeting notices for quite some

002261

time now. Our public involvement people, or maybe Jon Yerxa, might be able to help us a little bit out there, but we do go to great efforts to try to make sure that people are aware that these issues are on the table.

Question #4 from audience (continued):

In January, a year ago, I mean, if you don't know the answer, I can live with that. But why? Why didn't Department of Ecology scream if they were not being heard? We had a right to know. I had a right to know. And I'm angry as hell. I should not have to search the public record. I don't have time for that.

Pat Serie:

Sir, I think we've got that comment.

Question #4 from audience (continued):

I don't know if I'm angry at you or not; but I'm sure angry about it. I have a right to be angry.

Pat Serie:

Thank you. OK. We have five minutes left for questions before we move into comments. I would urge that those of you in line who are not going to make it in that five minutes, if you haven't signed up to give public comment, please do so, so that we can capture that on record. And why don't you go ahead, sir, and let's try to keep our comments as brief as we can. Responses.

Question #5 from audience:

At the League of Women Voters discussions that were held some months ago, there was no discussion whatsoever of the fundamental basis of government in this country, which is the legal system. And I was astonished that all these people would come and discuss everything but what really mattered (the big hole in the middle). So Mr. Roger Stanley, I have a question to you. Since you work for the government, you're supposed to know something about the laws and regulations such as for example the Model Toxics Control Act. Number one, with regard to Hanford, and this is on the record, number 1: Does federal law in general apply here? Number 2: does state law in general apply here? Number 3: does a Tri-Party Agreement in general apply here, and if we do not have a rule of law, is it anything other than a rule of force, and if it is the rule of force, how is it different than Nazism and how are you different from being a Nazi collaborator?

Pat Serie:

Roger?

Roger Stanley:

Both federal and state laws apply on the Hanford Site. It's a level playing field. You also asked whether or not the Tri-Party Agreement applies. It certainly does and it was drafted in response to the need to gain compliance with those laws.

Pat Serie:  
OK. Sir, question.

Question #6 from audience:

This is probably a similar question and I'd settle for a brief, kind of yes or no answer, but it concerns the process by which the cleanup timeline was stopped. Would you all agree that, strictly speaking, the process by which it stopped (whatever decisions) was strictly speaking, a legal process, or was it more a controversial process that might be subject to legal strategy and decisions about whether to seek enforcement or not?

Pat Serie:  
Who wants to go first?

Gerald Pollet:  
It was a unilateral and illegal decision by the Secretary of Energy. There is ...

002261

Pat Serie:  
Ernie?

Ernie Hughes:  
The facility is a federal facility. It was taken and put into the deactivation by the Secretary of Energy, who later determined there might be a mission for it and, within her legal rights at that time, she took it out of the deactivation and put it in standby.

Pat Serie:  
Roger, do you guys have a comment on that?

Roger Stanley:  
Our understanding is that the Secretary was operating within her authority by making that decision last January.

Unidentified person in audience:  
But you don't know?

Roger Stanley:  
We've asked the Attorney General's office to take a closer look at that issue.

Pat Serie:  
Thank you for the responses. Next person.

Question #7 from audience:

Hi. My question is: Has previous operations at FFTF shown that it can safely produce 1.5 kilograms per year of tritium? And can FFTF safely operate in a production mode? And has it operated safely in a production mode in the past?

1 Ernie Hughes:

2 The answer to the first question is we've never had experience, actual  
3 production experience, producing 1.5 kilograms. The engineering studies and  
4 evaluations to-date have shown that it can. It has had a successful operating  
5 history of ten years of very successful and safe operating.  
6

7 Question #8 from Gerald Pollet:

8 Ernie, now's the time to respond. When will you make public all classified  
9 records about FFTF safety and tritium releases and safety at Hanford? And  
10 will you make them all public before this comment period is over?  
11

12 Ernie Hughes:

13 We're gathering up all the documents that you requested, Gerry. I can't  
14 really put a timeframe on it because some of them we are having to search for.  
15 But I will tell you that we will not release any classified documents. We  
16 have no authority to release classified documents.  
17

18 Gerald Pollet:

19 So it turns out that there is some document that was declassified on  
20 December 22; many of you may have seen this on Channel 4. Excuse me. We're  
21 answering a question.  
22

002261

23 Pat Serie:

24 Please, let's be calm. Gerry, just finish quickly.  
25

26 Gerald Pollet:

27 If Mr. Hughes, what he is referring to, is the fact that declassified document  
28 shows that the Department of Energy stamped Classified on exposure  
29 calculations related either to FFTF or its fuel supply and 300 Area releases  
30 (that's right next to the city of Richland) of tritium. There are documents  
31 that are secret relating to the ability of the reactor fuel rods and tritium  
32 targets to release tritium under high heat. You can't judge the safety  
33 without seeing the records. And the problem with going back into the weapons  
34 mission here is we're right back into the secrecy and the full cycle of  
35 coverup.  
36

002261

37 Pat Serie:

38 OK. Thank you. I have terrible news for you guys. It is five minutes to  
39 eight and we need to move into public comment.  
40

41 Unidentified person in audience:

42 I appreciate this Pollet takin' my time.  
43

002263

44 Pat Serie:

45 If you are not signed up for public comment, please go to the back and do so.  
46 We're going to swing into that, and then we have over a 130 people. As I  
47 said, the agency people are willing to stay around as long as it takes and  
48 talk with people one-on-one and answer questions. Remember now that if you  
49 are representing an organization, I'd like you to say that. We have numerous  
50 people from some organizations, we've asked organizational representatives to

limit their comments to five minutes; individuals to three minutes. And as I said, it's going to take us several hours at this rate. We will not take a break per se, but we call this a rolling break, which is you can get up and go out whenever you need to. And we are going to start with Dr. Janet Eary and Dr. Ken Krohn from the University of Washington. What I'll do then is to list the next three people who are signed up and have them in the bullpen, so to speak, so we don't have to line up outside. Our next speakers will be Ken Kadlec from Jim McDermott's office. I didn't say that right, Congressman Jim McDermott's office. I've never seen this many people before. LaPriel Barnes and then Dr. Dave Hall, please. So, Drs. Eary and Krohn, are you ready to speak? Thank you. Again, let me ask that in all cases, let's hold our comments so that everyone can get on the record. If you prefer, you can come up and speak at this podium so that you're heard.

Janet Eary:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak this evening. I came in response to the stated goals or add-on benefits of using the Fast Flux reactor and that's the use of medical isotopes. I'm a professor in the University of Washington Department of Radiology and I'm the Director and Chief of the Nuclear Medicine Department. My most active area of research over the past 12 to 15 years has been the use of experimental therapy using medical radioisotopes. And as such, we have one of the most largest programs in the nation and perhaps the world, in experimental therapy using medical radioisotopes. And I'd like to make a few comments in that regard. I find that I don't have any problem receiving the medical isotopes that I require for my experimental therapy programs and there doesn't appear to be a shortage. It is a worldwide economy here in 1997 and 1998 and these therapies are experimental. We have been working on these therapies for many many years and progress has been extremely slow. And the information that has come to me shows that there has been a large overestimate in the potential need for these isotopes that require the use of another production facility, particularly one that is not run by people who make them for human use. So I'm here basically as a practitioner who uses these isotopes to say that I don't perceive that there is a need and if that is really the reason to help sway the agencies to keep the reactor open, I would not be in support of that. Thank you very much. Dr. Ken Krohn, who is one of my coworkers, is the Chief of Radiochemistry in our division and would like to make a few comments about production of medical isotopes as well. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Dr. Eary.

Ken Krohn:

I'm Dr. Kenneth Krohn. I am a nuke. I have 30 years of experience making radioisotopes with reactors and with cyclotrons. I'm a professor of radiology and chemistry here at the University of Washington. I have reviewed proposals for DOE, for Department of Defense, for NIH, for NSF for many years, and I'm here tonight to basically speak out against the restart of the FFTF under the guise of a perceived dramatic need for radionuclides for production and also for research. I have been aware of this proposal since it first surfaced a

002264

002265

1 couple of years ago. I have read the web page, the alpha emitters document,  
2 and looked at the argument that there are unique radionuclides that can be  
3 produced with this new facility. I do not see anything that can be produced  
4 that is particularly unique to this facility. There are adequate sources for  
5 these radionuclides. A lot of noise is made about the foreign source. The  
6 foreign sources are adequate; they come mostly from Canada, where they have a  
7 very nice reactor facility that meets all of our needs. So my conclusion from  
8 all of this is that the need is exaggerated, the economic forecasts are  
9 exceedingly ambitious, the rate of growth in radionuclide production as it's  
10 perceived here would have essentially one out of two cancer patients being  
11 treated with radionuclides for therapy. That is simply not a realistic  
12 forecast. Thank you.  
13

14 Pat Serie:

15 Thank you, Dr. Krohn. What I would like to point out is that anyone who has  
16 written testimony in addition to their verbal may leave it at the back table.  
17 There is someone back there collecting that formally. I bet this is  
18 Ken Kadlec. No? Mr. Kadlec? There you are. Thank you.  
19

20 Ken Kadlec:

21 My name is Ken Kadlec. I'm a staff person for Congressman Jim McDermott and  
22 I'm here to read a statement on his behalf. "I regret that previous  
23 commitments prevent my joining you in person this evening. Nonetheless, I  
24 want to express to you my strong opposition to the proposal to restart the  
25 FFTF facility at Hanford. We have struggled for years to achieve effective  
26 and thorough cleanup at the Hanford Site. Billions of taxpayers' dollars have  
27 been invested in that effort and still we have not reached our goal. Indeed  
28 new problems emerge almost daily and restarting the Fast Flux Facility will  
29 exaggerate them. Monies allocated for Hanford cleanup must be used for  
30 exactly that. Any other use violates the Tri-Party Agreement and contradicts  
31 our commitment to protect our citizens and their environment from the ravage  
32 of nuclear weapons production. Cleaning up the dangerous mess that we have  
33 created at Hanford is our first priority and our first obligation. It is  
34 estimated that reactivation could cost up to 3 billion dollars--money that  
35 would be drawn away from ongoing cleanup efforts because there are no funds  
36 laying around in government coffers to pay for FFTF. Funding for many  
37 worthwhile programs from education to housing to medical research is being cut  
38 or eliminated because supposedly we can't afford them. A huge outlay to  
39 restart the Fast Flux facility is simply indefensible. Many alternative uses  
40 have been proposed for the Hanford facility that are consistent with the  
41 original mission for the cleanup and economical development of the site. The  
42 U.S. should lead the effort to end the proliferation of nuclear weapons by  
43 investing in human potential instead of human destruction."  
44

45 Pat Serie:

46 OK. Ms. Barnes, if you could hesitate for just one second. We have the next  
47 Dave Hall, Cailan McClain-O'Connell, and Evan Kanter up in the next three,  
48 please.  
49  
50

002266

LaPriell Barnes:

I'm LaPriell Barnes from Kirkland, Washington, and I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak against the rebuilding of hazardous waste at Hanford, or any other place in the United States. I submit Mr. Secretary of Energy that we cannot afford the 435 million dollars needed to implement it. We have a changing face on the workfront in our country that sees women the breadwinner of this nation. Surplus monies are needed to adjust salary schedules that will allow women to assume this role with a degree of dignity. This is a matter of extreme need and concern and should take precedence over any proposal by the Department of Energy that would place our people in the embarrassing and dangerous position of rebuilding hazardous waste at Hanford or anywhere else in the United States. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

OK. Dr. Hall?

David Hall:

Yes, I'm Dr. David Hall. I'm the immediate past President of National Physicians for Social Responsibility and a third-generation Seattle physician. I'm here to speak against the restart of the Fast Flux Test Facility. I want to speak first to the issue of tritium. Tritium is a booster for atomic weapons that allows the weapons designers to increase the destructive yield of an atomic bomb into the range of a thermonuclear bomb. It's a difference between an atom bomb and a hydrogen bomb; that's tritium. The reason that we want the United States Department of Energy, the United States Department of Defense at this point, wants more tritium is that they are afraid that we don't have enough. We have well over 10,000 weapons at this point, each of which has some tritium and can be recycled if the cycle of disarmament that we have started since before the end of the cold war is continued. We wish to encourage our Congress, our leaders, to pursue drastic cuts in the nuclear weapons arsenals. The restart of any tritium production in the United States is a signal to all of the other nuclear and potential nuclear weapons states that the United States is not serious about nuclear disarmament. The United States, in addition, if we go to just START II levels and encourage the Soviet Duma, the Russian Duma, to ratify START II will have more than enough tritium until the year 2005. And in that period of time, we will have time to work on START III to begin to bring the nuclear weapons arsenals down to something that's anywhere close to reasonable. The only really safe and reasonable level for these weapons is zero. The most outspoken person in the United States at the present time for the abolition of nuclear weapons is the former Commander of the United States Strategic Forces, General Lee Butler, who under President Clinton was the Commander in Chief of the Strategic Air Command, who was the top military person in charge of American nuclear weapons. I have five minutes?

Pat Serie:

Yes. Five for organizations, three for individuals, based on the number of people we have. Please finish.

David Hall:

General Butler made it clear there is no military use for these weapons and there is every reason to believe the United States becomes more unsafe with these weapons because of the proliferation of these weapons into the hands of other countries. Let me just remind you once again what Physicians for Social Responsibility and others made a point of trying to make in the 1980s. What does one of these weapons do? A Hiroshima-size bomb has no tritium; you add tritium you have a 100-kiloton bomb. We're talking about something seven times Hiroshima. Seven times Hiroshima is the reason we want tritium is so that we don't just have a Hiroshima bomb in all of these numbers, but we have seven times, and more Hiroshima bombs. We're talking about the incineration of three to five square miles for every one of these bombs. And people are saying because we need to keep 8,000 serviceable, we need more tritium.

002268

Pat Serie:

Thank you. Dr. Hall. OK.

David Hall:

I would just present to you a letter that's addressed to Secretary Peña that is signed by myself, by HENS, by Kirk Godfrey (the HENS Professor of Physics in Cornell), by Andrew Harris, the current President of Physicians of Social Responsibility, and by Rollis Hoffman the Nobel Laureate in Chemistry from Cornell, again telling you we do not need more tritium.

002268

Pat Serie:

Thank you. Two quick points as we move along. As we said before, anyone is welcome to come speak from this podium as well and do remember that our agencies have got to walk away with some comments on the proposed Tri-Party milestone changes. I'm not saying that's all you can talk about, but let's be sure that we give them input on that. Our next speaker is Cailan McClain-O'Connell, probably our youngest speaker tonight. And, Cailan, if you can wait one second, we're putting him in so he can go home to go to bed, which I think you'll all agree is important. Following Cailan will be Dr. Evan Kanter, Tom Carpenter, and Jim Trombold, please.

Cailan McClain-O'Connell:

Stop nuclear bombs' wastes now because they're killing us and our wildlife. No nuclear bombs.

002269

Unidentified person:

Cailan is my friend. And as a mom of two children myself, I'd just like to point out that my girls have enough respect for their home environment that if they make a mess they clean that mess up before they start another mess. I'd like to know what your mom thinks of this?

002270

Pat Serie:

OK. Thank you. Dr. Evan Kanter.



002271

Evan Kanter:

I'm Dr. Evan Kanter. I'm a psychiatrist and neuroscientist in Seattle and I'm the Vice President of the local Washington Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Thank you for this opportunity to speak today. I'm going to have a statement on behalf of Physicians for Social Responsibility in Washington. Our state should not encourage further nuclear weapons production by agreeing to waive the TPA milestones on FFTF. We have already contributed more than our share to this form of national security and we are left with an enormous legacy of waste and untenable environmental problems because of it. Due to lack of funding, we are not emptying the very dangerous and leaking high-level waste tanks at Hanford. Meanwhile fundings for weapons production is increasing, as shown in this overhead. You can see over the last few years. Here is 1995--the expenditures for cleanup are almost twice the expenditures for defense programs; and now in 1998, they are about the same. This shows a clear shift in priorities. The spending priorities have shifted but the public priorities have not shifted. And I think that the attendance here tonight clearly attests to that. With the Columbia River threatened by these tanks, this shift in funding priorities is unconscionable. The U.S. can do with fewer nuclear weapons. Tritium can be recycled from those we have. To preserve our national security we must assure the rest of the world that we are serious about arms reduction and the eventual elimination of weapons of mass destruction; that we will stand by our commitment to the nonproliferation treaty.

Next overhead. Shown here are the current state of the tritium recycling capabilities. So you can see here that the estimated date of shortfall of tritium that we're presented with is based on these current warhead levels under START I. So if we proceed to the warhead levels under START II and START III, we won't need this tritium. So the tritium we have we could recycle; it would last to 2015. If we have the number of warheads estimated under START II, the tritium would last until 2025 if we have the number of warheads under START III. As Dr. Hall indicated, I think the ultimate goal of the majority of the people here is zero nuclear warheads but as indicated in the nonproliferation treaty, which has already been signed and ratified. There's one other option that I should mention which is that a recent National Academy of Sciences study this past year concluded that only 100 to 150 nuclear weapons would be completely adequate for defense purposes; that is it would be sufficient to maintain our deterrence posture. So that's somewhere in between this START III and NPT is the option of 100 to 150 nuclear weapons that would be sufficient for a defense and that wouldn't require any more tritium. Tritium is therefore not needed to maintain our nuclear stockpile. The FFTF proposal says less about the need for tritium than it does about the inability of the DOE to think in terms of strategic arms reduction. If we have not lead the world into the nonproliferation regime outlined in the NPT by 2050, nuclear weapons are very likely to be used to settle international disputes. Washington state can lead the nation away from this nuclear abyss by saying no to bomb production in our state. Restarting the FFTF would send a strong signal to Russia and other nations that the U.S. intends to keep nuclear weapons indefinitely--it would jeopardize treaties such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the

3 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty and the Nonproliferation Treaty. The reactor  
4 has been shut down since 1992 when the Secretary of Energy determined that the  
5 FFTF mission was no longer sustainable. Let's keep it that way.

6 I just want to quickly add one personal comment about the medical isotope  
7 plan. You've heard from Dr. Eary, who's the Chair of Nuclear Medicine at the  
8 University of Washington, and one of the largest single users of medical  
9 isotopes in this country, about how little sense this plan makes. Personally,  
10 I feel that this medical isotope plan a wolf in sheep's clothing. It would  
11 produce its therapeutic benefits on the back of the most destructive power on  
12 earth. As a physician, I am outraged by its use as a smokescreen for renewed  
13 bomb production. Thank you.

14 Pat Serie:

15 OK. Thank you, Dr. Kanter. We have Tom Carpenter. Tom Carpenter, then  
16 Jim Trombold, Tim Keller, and Ben Cohen following Tom. Dr. Kanter, you were  
17 representing Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, correct? OK.

18 Tom Carpenter:

19 My name is Tom Carpenter. I'm speaking on behalf of the Government  
20 Accountability Project. I'm going to not repeat myself. I mentioned earlier  
21 that we were protecting workers and whistleblowers at the Hanford Site, which  
22 we have done for the last ten years. Most of GAP's Hanford's whistleblowers  
23 work in Hanford's deadly high-level nuclear waste operations where they face  
24 the production era's legacy of shockingly inferior waste disposal practices.  
25 Radioactive and hazardous waste was buried in tanks, trenches, ditches, and  
26 dumps almost directly into the Columbia River. Sixty-seven million gallons of  
27 the waste is stored in the 177 underground tanks.

002262

29 Pat Serie:

30 Excuse me. Tom, just a moment please. We're all gonna respect all speakers  
31 please and wait until your allotted time to speak. Thank you.

32 Tom Carpenter:

33 A third of these 177 underground tanks are known to be leaking and have  
34 failed. These tanks are now safety threats as well. Our Hanford cases  
35 illustrate the unrelenting efforts of some Hanford managers to remove  
36 essential resources from conscientious employees and to reassign or terminate  
37 qualified personnel who refuse to remain silent on the mismanagement of the  
38 Hanford tank cleanup program. This is especially brave when at issue is  
39 irreversible contamination of the groundwater and the Columbia River, which  
40 provides drinking water for several hundred thousand people in Washington and  
41 Oregon and which irrigates more than one million acres of prime crop land.  
42 Now this history is important in the context of our comments today because  
43 there could be no doubt that Hanford is one of the most contaminated  
44 facilities in North America, largely due to mismanagement, misplaced  
45 priorities, poor science, and an unrelenting disregard for the health and  
46 safety of Hanford workers and the public. Even with the end of the production  
47 mission of Hanford in 1992, the reign of error at Hanford has continued.

002262

3 Last Thursday, the Department of Energy released the results of an internal  
4 management review prompted by the complaints of whistleblowers who met with  
5 Energy Secretary about Hanford's operations. The report condemned Hanford  
6 management stating that management is perceived as dismissive at best and  
7 intimidating at worst, in dealing with professional differences of opinion on  
8 technical issues. Many employees are reluctant to raise beyond their  
9 immediate supervisors, technical or safety issues that may impact schedules  
10 because they perceive that they may suffer negative career consequences.  
11 Current safety management processes lacks sufficient rigor to consistently  
12 detect management resolve problems before they become major issues for the  
13 program.

14 In short, the so-called cleanup at Hanford is bogged down in the same  
15 political intrigue in mismanagement that plagued the production mission. The  
16 result is that despite the commitment of over nine billion dollars by the U.S.  
17 taxpayer, Hanford has made little real progress cleaning up the worst of the  
18 nuclear contamination resulting from 50 years of bomb building. Against this  
19 backdrop of shrinking cleanup, of mismanagement and shrinking cleanup dollars,  
20 Hanford clamors for a new production mission. Against this backdrop of  
21 staggering radiological pollution, it is the height of folly to suggest that  
22 the State of Washington accede to the demands of the U.S. Department of Energy  
23 to delete the decommissioning and cleanup of FFTF from the cleanup agreement.

24 Despite the overwhelming expert opinion opposed to the restart of FFTF on its  
25 technical and safety merits, advocates of restarting FFTF have skirted a  
26 formidable obstacle with the Washington State Department of Ecology.  
27 Tentative approval of DOE's request to remove milestones in the Tri-Party  
28 Agreement, which regulates the decommissioning and cleanup of the FFTF nuclear  
29 reactor. This development is of great concern to our organization and to the  
30 citizens of the Pacific Northwest. It is the only leverage that the citizens  
31 of the Northwest have to force this department to fulfill its commitment to  
32 clean up at the Hanford Site. Deletion of these milestones from this  
33 agreement helps pave the way for DOE to restart FFTF for the production of  
34 bomb materials. In 1992, former President George Bush made a solemn promise  
35 that as a nation celebrated the end of the cold war and sought to redefine its  
36 relationship to the world, so too must Hanford redefine its mission.  
37 President Bush vowed that there would be no further weapons material  
38 production at the Hanford Site. He proposed that instead, Hanford should  
39 serve as a laboratory applying the same creativity and innovation to clean up  
40 that it applied to production. This is no small task. The citizens of the  
41 Northwest must assure that Hanford does not go back into the business of  
42 making nuclear weapons material. Demand that Senator Murray and  
43 Governor Gary Locke reject the use of FFTF for making tritium and that Hanford  
44 focus only on its current mission of cleanup of the deadly mess of 50 years of  
45 bomb building. Reject the radioactive pork barrel called FFTF.

46  
47 Pat Serie:

48 Thank you, Tom.

1 Tom Carpenter:

2 I urge everyone in this audience to call Secretary Federico Peña at  
3 (202) 586-7701 and tell him that you oppose the restart of FFTF.  
4 (202) 586-7701. Thank you.  
5

6 Pat Serie:

7 Thank you, Tom. OK. I would just comment that I have been asked by a number  
8 of people of about moving within the order. We are sticking with a  
9 first-come, first-serve situation and we will stay until everyone's been heard  
10 from. So we need to keep going down that list. Which gets us to  
11 Jim Trombold, followed by Tim Keller, Ben Cohen, and Nancy Rising, please.  
12

13 Jim Trombold:

14 Thank you. I'm Jim Trombold, a physician. I'm an internist here in Seattle.  
15 I'm on the Board of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility,  
16 past/present. I'm on the national board. I'm representing the organization  
17 and myself, though I don't think I'll need the ... technically, I'm  
18 representing the Washington group, but I don't think I need the full  
19 five minutes. I want to point out that sometimes we get submerged and get too  
20 close and can't see the forest for the trees. But I want to make a couple of  
21 comments. That I'm old enough to know, and many of you are, that in  
22 January 1961, a Kansas boy (and I'm from Kansas) named Dwight Eisenhower (of  
23 course, he was leaving government before he could be honest about it), talked  
24 about the military industrial complex and warned us that if we were not  
25 careful the military industrial complex will grip every city in the United  
26 States, drain resources, on and on. And isn't this a classic example? I  
27 should mention that the organization nationally is associated with  
28 International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and I don't think  
29 Dr. Hall mentioned won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, but it's more important  
30 why they won it. They won it for educational efforts like this about the risk  
31 of the nuclear arms race. And the educational process took place worldwide in  
32 Russia, the United States, and the Russian counterpart, and Bernie and I in  
33 United States received the Nobel Peace Prize. So we're still at it and thanks  
34 to all of you for being here. Now one thing I'd like to say about jobs. We  
35 might allay a lot of anxiety and I understand people traveled over from the  
36 Tri-Cities and that Patty Murray was raised there. You know, we can't think  
37 clearly if we're anxious about jobs. I am all for jobs. We all need jobs,  
38 that's a reality. But I don't want jobs buildin' nerve gas. Right. I don't  
39 want a job making tobacco products. We need to take our public money, our tax  
40 money, and I'm for tripling the jobs in the Tri-Cities area. I'm not against  
41 jobs and it's a little bit of a pork barrel thing if they don't get it over  
42 there; they're going to get it at Savannah, Georgia, and all this kind of  
43 talk. That's old, tired talk. We've got to get over it. I don't want to pay  
44 tax money any more for making nuclear weapons. We have, even if you're a  
45 hawk, I don't feel insecure. We showed a lot of power fire in Iraq; we do not  
46 need more nuclear weapons. So let's triple the jobs over there, triple the  
47 budget over there, and pay people to do the right thing, which is clean up.  
48

49 Pat Serie:

50 Thank you, Dr. Trombold.

002262

002272

1 Jim Trombold:

002272

2 So enough of the jobs thing. I mean, let's tell Patty Murray, write her and  
3 call her, and call Locke; hey, jobs doin' the right thing for our kids and our  
4 grandkids, not makin' warheads. OK. One thing about this thing about the  
5 Defense Department. I'm a little tired that even Patty Murray said to us  
6 directly, well, you know, the Department of Defense says we need tritium. And  
7 Dave Hall's explored that very well. Hey, wait a minute, that's the same  
8 organization that gave us the Vietnam war. Let's do not accept as something  
9 from the Bible or from God above that we need tritium. Let's question it  
10 right from the start. And then they ask us at a press conference, oh, you  
11 just don't want it in our back yard; you want them to do it somewhere else.  
12 We said no, we have our organization working down in Savannah; we don't want  
13 the tritium made anywhere. I'm going to close by saying that we should not,  
14 we worked so hard, so many of you, so many of us, to get a decent Tri-Party  
15 Agreement and it's probably not good enough. But for God's sake, we've got to  
16 follow what we have. We can't slide backwards; let's get jobs over there in  
17 cleanup so that our children or grandchildren may have an Eastern Washington  
18 and a Columbia River that's not a contaminated, terrible place. And if we  
19 have one little accident over there, we've got, we need all of our technology  
20 and skill and ability. We have to do cleanup. We can't divert and deplete it  
21 by going back to weapons production. We need it all workin' on cleanup.  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 Pat Serie:

25 Thank you, Dr. Trombold. Tim Keller, please. Mr. Keller. And following  
26 Mr. Keller we have Ben Cohen, Nancy Rising, and Gerald Pollet.

27  
28 Tim Keller:

002273

29 Good evening. My name is Dr. Timothy Keller and tonight I am speaking on  
30 behalf of the Washington State Medical Association. Last week, the Executive  
31 Committee of the Washington State Medical Association passed the following  
32 resolution. The Washington State Medical Association opposes restart of the  
33 Fast Flux Test Facility based on the current public health impact resulting  
34 from Hanford's existing storage facilities and the potential for further  
35 adverse public health consequences as a result of restarting the FFTF reactor.  
36 As physicians, we're deeply disturbed by the continuing health risks which  
37 Hanford poses to the citizens of Washington and beyond. We have only to  
38 remember May 14 explosion last year at Hanford's Plutonium Finishing Plant,  
39 when construction workers were ordered to walk into the path of a toxic  
40 chemical release and then were held for four hours without medical attention.  
41 More recently the discovery that radioactive material from the storage tanks  
42 had reached the groundwater, to know that Hanford's existing storage  
43 facilities threaten public health. Tritium production for nuclear weapons at  
44 the FFTF would require importing plutonium to Hanford and processing it into  
45 fuel rods which would generate large amounts of new high-level nuclear waste  
46 containing up to 40% weapons-grade plutonium. As a physician, when I hear the  
47 word plutonium I visualize its impact on the human body. According to a  
48 report commissioned by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear  
49 War, plutonium "poses an extraordinarily dangerous threat to health as an  
50 emitter of alpha particles, is readily absorbed when inhaled as fine

particles, lingers in the body for decades, and is probably the most carcinogenic substance known." As medical professionals, we oppose, as the WSMA statement clearly states, further adverse public health consequences as a result of restarting the FFTF reactor.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Dr. Keller.

END OF TAPE

Pat Serie:

We are on speaker number nine or ten; ten, I believe. So we do need to move along. This is not Ben Cohen, I'll bet. I'm sorry, Ms. Rising. Ben Cohen and then Nancy Rising, Gerry Pollet and Aaron Katz.

Ben Cohen:

My name is Ben Cohen. I'm the chairman of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream. I'm here in Seattle because I was invited to speak at Success '98 here at the Key Dome this afternoon. I was invited to share with them the perspective of a businessman who built a successful company based on a set of human values. It's about return on investment and I'm here with you tonight to share that same perspective and to say that restarting the Fast Flux Test Facility is a bad investment on several grounds.

It's a bad investment militarily. It was once justified to thwart the Soviet Union in a strategy known as Mutually Assured Destruction, but the Soviets are gone. Yet the U.S. maintains some 12,000 nuclear warheads, packing the destructive capacity of 120,000 Hiroshimas. The Department of Energy claims that the new tritium supply will be necessary after the year 2005 to sustain those warheads. But we shouldn't have that many warheads to start, and of course, the easy answer is to reduce the nuclear stockpile. In the Christmas '96 letter by the former Strategic Air Command General Lee Butler and scores of his fellow distinguished warriors, they urged that we do away with nuclear weapons. Those generals said that the world would be safer militarily with fewer nukes. And this past December, the National Defense Panel, which was chartered by the Congress, made its final report and it stated that the nation does not need to rely on its stockpile of nuclear weapons. It could deter its enemies with a few thousand nuclear weapons or less, roughly 10,000 fewer than it now possesses. And that's the latest report on the subject from the government of the United States. The long-term international nuclear policy must be based on the declared principle of continuous, complete, and irrevocable elimination of nuclear weapons. That was the conclusion of the generals. The National Resources Defense Council scientists state that the current tritium stocks could maintain 2,000 nuclear weapons until the year 2031. And that would be still ten times the number of weapons required by Robert MacNamara, who was the architect of Mutually Assured Destruction. The best military strategy would be to aggressively negotiate the end to the nuclear arms race. Restarting FFTF would be a step away from the denuclearization that is finally underway, that we have all paid so much during the cold war to bring about.

1 FFTF is also a bad investment politically. It has a bad effect on arms  
control. We're eager for Russia to sign START II and other nations to scale  
4 back on the arms trade. Yet the U.S. proposes to keep up the nuclear arms  
5 race. Against whom? Most people think that we've put the cold war behind,  
6 that we're free from Mutually Assured Destruction. Yet others would have us  
7 return to bomb making here in the State of Washington. I instead urge that  
8 this machine of the bygone nuclear weapons era may rest in peace and that any  
9 future meltdowns that we experience will occur solely in our freezers.

10 Pat Serie:

11 Thank you, sir. Did you know that the average American eats five gallons of  
12 ice cream every year? I just heard that today. Nancy Rising, and then we'll  
13 have Gerald Pollet, Aaron Katz and Patricia Bulko, please.

14  
15 Nancy Rising:

16 My name is Nancy Rising and I'm certainly honored to be on the same podium  
17 with such distinguished speakers and people that care so much. I'm here  
18 tonight as the President of Peace Action Washington and also as the national  
19 secretary of Peace Action. As many of you probably know, Peace Action was  
20 formerly Washington State Sane Freeze and represents more than  
21 15,000 households in this state. It's part of a nationwide network of Peace  
22 Action chapters with a total membership of over 60,000. We stand with other  
23 organizations and individuals here and throughout the country in strong  
24 opposition to the restart of Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility for the  
25 production of tritium, the gas that makes nuclear weapons into thermonuclear  
26 bombs so that we may incinerate even larger populations. We've been through  
27 this process before. We participated in good faith by submitting testimonies  
28 and comments during the development of the Department of Energy's  
29 Environmental Impact Statement for Tritium Supply and Recycling. That  
30 document, completed in October 1995, states that, "Relying on the ability to  
31 modify and operate Fast Flux Test Facility well into the middle of the next  
32 century is not a reasonable alternative." Please read your own report. In  
33 our view, the fact that the FFTF is again under consideration for a nuclear  
34 bomb mission years after the Department of Energy decided to shut down the  
35 aging reactor permanently is the result of the worst brand of pork barrel  
36 politics. But this pork comes at the expense of public safety and common  
37 sense. Producing tritium at the FFTF would add to the vast amounts of deadly  
38 radioactive and chemical waste already at Hanford. It would entail  
39 transporting tons of weapons unusable plutonium into Washington state where it  
40 would be converted into reactor fuel at the previously unused, and therefore  
41 uncontaminated (that's a first) Fuels and Materials Examination Facility. It  
42 will complicate the already daunting for cleaning up the horrible  
43 environmental legacy left by decades of nuclear weapons work at Hanford.

44  
45 The Department of Energy made the right move in 1990, when it changed  
46 Hanford's mission from nuclear production to environmental restoration. We  
47 urge you to reject any policy that would divert focus away from cleaning up  
48 the nightmarish mess at Hanford. Now this next statement has been made in  
various ways earlier this evening and I want you to listen carefully, please.  
The United States does not need a new tritium source. Tritium from nuclear

warheads being retired under the provisions of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks can be recycled into warheads remaining in the arsenal. Last week Russian President Boris Yeltsin renewed his call for Duma ratification of the second START treaty. Russian ratification of START II would effectively postpone the "need" for new tritium until at least 2011. Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin already have committed to the framework for a START III treaty that would reduce the form of cold war adversary's nuclear arsenals to roughly 2,000 strategic warheads each, delaying the "need" for new tritium even further into the 21st century. These timetables are important. The Congressional Budget Office in May 1997 estimated that under one possible START III treaty, the United States could save up to 5.8 billion between 1998 and 2010 by deferring investments into a new source for tritium. I think we may have some uses for that money. Again, I refer to the Department of Energy's Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Tritium and Supply and Recycling. "If the need for new tritium was significantly later than 2011 (which that indicated), the department would not have a proposal for a new tritium supply and would not be preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Tritium Supply and Recycling." Again, please read your own report. Resuming tritium production now would send a strong signal to Russia and the rest of the world, that the United States plans on maintaining a huge nuclear arsenal indefinitely. It is a move out of step with the growing international momentum toward nuclear disarmament. From an environmental, economic, and national security standpoint, securing further progress towards nuclear disarmament makes much more sense than seeking a new source of tritium at Hanford or anywhere. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Ms. Rising. All right. We have Gerald Pollet, then Aaron Katz will be next, followed by Patricia Bulko and Ken Weyrauen, please.

Gerald Pollet:

Again, I'm Gerry Pollet with Heart of America Northwest and I'm going to take the microphone for a minute. I'll use some slides. I want to start by thanking each and every one of you for being citizens tonight. It's going to be a long night if we make sure everyone gets to testify. Please stay or write and send in your comments. There is a mail box that we'll mail your comments to the Governor in the back, in the empty room, or whatever you call it, the lobby. Take the time while you're sitting and listening to others or after you have spoken and write a letter to the Governor. It can be simple; we'll mail it to him for you. I want to thank all the organizations that worked so hard to try to find out the truth here and to let their members know, not just Heart of America Northwest members and volunteers, and our staff, but Peace Action, Government Accountability Project, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and many others. Thank you very much and all of you who cared enough for coming and will speak tonight and make your views heard not just tonight. You've got to make your views heard at your precinct caucus in your neighborhood, and when you go vote, and when you think about picking up the newspaper and say, why isn't there a letter to the editor tomorrow morning. OK.

002261



1 Senator Wyden asked me to read the following letter at the Portland hearing  
2 and I'm just going to read a tiny excerpt here. Dear Secretary Peña. I'm  
3 writing to urge you in the strongest possible terms to set aside any proposal  
4 to restart the Fast Flux Test Facility at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.  
5 More than a million Oregonians live within 50 miles of the Columbia River  
6 downstream from Hanford. We often forget who's got the risks here.  
7 Washington state has one small area that gets jobs and there's another state  
8 that gets all the downstream and downwind risks or many of them. Contaminated  
9 plumes already threaten the river and the web of life it supports. We cannot  
10 afford to take our eyes off the main goal, which is and must remain, the  
11 effective cleanup of the nuclear legacy on the river's banks. I must also  
12 point out that the continued use of cleanup money to keep FFTF in standby is  
13 not authorized by Congress. DOE asked for reprogramming with cleanup funds,  
14 but the committees of jurisdiction have not acted on that request. Think that  
15 settles one of the questions about whether it's legal.

16  
17 There are many things that the Department of Energy didn't want you to know  
18 about tonight and that is, given their track record, the scariest thing. We  
19 all know that for the last decade, literally a decade, many of us have said  
20 DOE's own internal reports, the Government Accounting Office center, have all  
21 said high-level nuclear waste tank leaks threaten the groundwater in the  
22 Columbia River. The Department of Energy said, Oh no, magic at Hanford, tank  
23 waste leaks don't go down. Well, this November they finally admitted, guess  
24 what? The waste's in the groundwater. You knew it, we all knew it. They  
25 covered it up. We could go on and on about coverups.

26  
27 There are some Hanford workers here. Let's talk about the coverup of those  
28 people who were exposed to toxic releases May 14 at the Plutonium Finishing  
29 Plant explosion. And did the Department of Energy and its contractors tell  
30 the truth when they said we took nasal smears, as to whether or not you were  
31 exposed to plutonium? They lied.

32  
33 Pat Serie:

34 Gerry, one minute please.

35  
36 Gerald Pollet:

37 They did not test those nasal smears. And so when the Department of Energy  
38 says we're really interested in medical isotopes, while they're admitting when  
39 you ask them hard questions, they're not really interested. And here's a  
40 recently declassified document that shows, written by the chief lobbyist for  
41 the Tri-Cities Industrial Development Council on behalf of FFTF, when he  
42 worked at Hanford 1982 looking to promote tritium production. And another  
43 declassified document, tritium production numbers, FFTF tritium production.  
44 They've been keeping it a secret and stamping it Classified as they struggle  
45 to find the political momentum to restart the FFTF reactor.

46  
47 Pat Serie:

48 Gerry, you need to finish please.

002261

002261

Gerald Pollet:

It is also frightening what else they kept classified. This is the cover page of a recent report. I'll just throw it up here. It shows FFTF Radiation Protection, 300 Area Conclusion. Please note that the HTO release, that's hydrogen tritium oxide at both 4,000 meters and 1,000 meters exceed DOE Order blah-de-blah limits for individuals and population groups and controlled areas. Exposure calculations stamped Secret so that you wouldn't know about it. The same document reveals that not 30 years ago, not 20 years ago, but in the 1980s, there was a tritium release right next door to the city of Richland, apparently related to FFTF fuel supply. They're keeping documents related to it classified. Until we can see all the documents, you can't tell whether or not it's safe. And the studies show a catastrophic risk.

Pat Serie:

Gerry, we need to finish. You've had five minutes.

Gerald Pollét:

I'm going to stop right here then and say thank you to each and every one of you for taking the time. Please make sure you continue to speak out. You can stay in touch with what's happening every month by calling 1-800-24-CLEAN, 1-800-24-CLEAN, to stay posted on developments. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you. OK. We have Aaron Katz, please. Then Patricia Bulko, Ken Weyrauen, and Denis Hayes, please.

Aaron Katz:

Good evening. My name's Aaron Katz. I'm speaking this evening as a private citizen, although my comments are informed by four years as a member of the Washington State Nuclear Waste Advisory Council, from 1987 to 1991. It's nice to see colleagues of old, although I wish it were under different circumstances. I served on the Council at a time when the veil of secrecy about the operation of the Hanford's facility was being pried off; a time when the cold war rationale for the continued production of nuclear material was dissolving; a time when the extent of pollution and desecration of the reservation was coming to light. To be brutally frank, the Department of Energy and its contractors had to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into these new realities. Not only did they resist the loss of the bomb-making mission of Hanford, but they attempted to side step, obfuscate, and deny Hanford's absolutely clear new mission: to clean up the enormous and toxic mess that had been created in the name of national security. I can't tell you how many times the U.S. DOE's representatives came to the Advisory Council to assuage our concerns that tanks were leaking; only to hear days later that indeed leaks had been discovered, and they neglected to tell us. The advent of the Tri-Party Agreement seemed to put an end to that resistance. At last it seemed all concerns of both saw the wisdom and the necessity to focus all efforts at Hanford on the daunting ...

Inaudible

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1 Aaron Katz:

2 ... would be needed to develop the science and technology that could deal with  
3 the worst kind of pollution ever confronted by human kind. The payoff for  
4 such a singular focus would be great--reclamation of a land once wild and  
5 still beautiful and sacred from the ravages of weapons production, plus a new  
6 cleanup industry with unfortunately a worldwide market. Truly the concordance  
7 between environmental improvement and economic well-being. So when I read of  
8 this new idea, to go back to the old Hanford mission, to use FFTF to produce  
9 tritium, I was stunned at first. But when I saw the purported reason for  
10 medical isotopes, I recognized right away the worn-out old pattern. Say one  
11 thing, do another. I won't dwell on this latest shuck-n-jive, others much  
12 more knowledgeable than I have squarely refuted that facade. What I will  
13 stress is the utter ridiculousness of this idea. I mean, let's be honest  
14 about the situation here. The people of Washington state and the nation have  
15 entrusted their health and well-being to U.S. DOE and its partners to make  
16 every effort possible to contain the toxic mess and to move expeditiously to  
17 cleanup. Have they demonstrated their ability to fulfill this heavy  
18 responsibility? Well, in my talk here, I have a litany of cases. I'm not  
19 going to go through them; some of them have been cited already. The answer,  
20 of course, is no. By what stroke of madness do we now contemplate adding more  
21 waste to this mess? Through what masterful decision do we divert even a dime,  
22 much less 30 million dollars a year, from the serious and urgent business of  
23 figuring out how to clean up this place?  
24

25 Pat Serie:  
26 One minute, OK?

27 Aaron Katz:

28 Alice never confronted as bizarre a set of ideas in Wonderland.

29 Nine years ago, the government agencies that represent our interests: U.S.  
30 DOE, Ecology, and EPA, took the courageous step of dedicating Hanford to one  
31 single unitary cleanup mission. We are decades away from the time to rethink  
32 that singular commitment. Place FFTF into cold storage and get on with the  
33 work at hand. Thank you.  
34  
35  
36

37 Pat Serie:

38 Thank you, Dr. Katz. OK. We're on speaker 13, please, so let's keep moving.  
39 Patricia Bulko, then Ken Weyrauen, Denis Hayes, and Dave Johnson, please.  
40

41 Patricia Bulko:

42 I'm a practicing family physician and I do cradle-to-grave care up at  
43 Northgate in Seattle. I'm here because I thought it was a really intriguing  
44 idea that you can turn a war machine into one that would make medical isotopes  
45 and help my patients dying of cancer. I am strongly in favor of effective  
46 cancer treatment, diagnosis, and therapy with medical isotopes. And I am  
47 therefore strongly opposed to the FFTF. The credibility of physicians and  
48 medical researchers should not be abused by connecting the FFTF with what is  
49 good in cancer research and treatment. As health professionals, we rely on  
50 medical isotopes and radionuclides daily. The FFTF will not produce the high

1 quality and cost-effective isotopes on which we rely. Isotopes are produced  
2 by three processes: electromagnetic, separation nuclear reaction, and  
3 acceleration of charged particles. The FFTF could only supply the isotopes  
4 obtainable by the nuclear reaction method. The FFTF would need to be  
5 converted to make medical isotopes. There was a great loss and no gain when  
6 this was tried in the past. DOE invested 3.5 million dollars to convert the  
7 Omega West reactor at Los Alamos National Lab. The reactor was closed down  
8 due to a leaking coolant pipe and now repairs were estimated at 10 million  
9 dollars, to reopen it. This cost is equal to the entire market value of  
10 radioisotopes worldwide. The FFTF will not meet our needs for a stable  
11 cost-effective supply of isotopes for medical care. Please don't confuse the  
12 issues.

13  
14 Pat Serie:

15 OK. Ken Weyrauen. Hope I pronounced his name correctly. Then Denis Hayes  
16 and Dave Johnson, please.

17  
18 Karl Weyrauch:

19 Good evening. My name is Karl Weyrauch. I speak as a representative of the  
20 University Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers.  
21 I'd like to read a message that our meeting prepared for this group relating  
22 to the issues that have been addressed tonight.

23  
24 The University monthly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, or  
25 Quakers, is deeply concerned about the proposal to change the Tri-Party  
26 Agreement that currently guides the cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear  
27 Reservation. Although our meeting house is located in Seattle, we have  
28 members living in every part of the state who share this concern. After half  
29 a century of nuclear production, this site must be fully cleaned up. None of  
30 the reasons for keeping any reactor open and operative justify bringing in  
31 more plutonium and producing more radioactive waste at the most contaminated  
32 site at our state. For more than 50 years, our Society has called for nuclear  
33 disarmament as part of our general testimony against war and the human and  
34 ecological devastation it causes. This proposal for tritium production will  
35 only continue our government's preparation for war through nuclear  
36 stockpiling. Instead, the United States should take a leadership role in  
37 building the trust essential for effective disarmament efforts. We must  
38 uphold such agreements as SALT II, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and the  
39 Nonproliferation Treaty, and develop new means for preventing the development  
40 and spread of nuclear terror. Therefore, we look for your leadership in  
41 promoting the health of our state and peace for our planet by strengthening,  
42 not weakening, the Tri-Party Agreement to clean up the Hanford Nuclear Site.  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 Pat Serie:

46 OK. Denis Hayes, then Dave Johnson, and Dana Gold, please.

47  
48 Denis Hayes:

49 Hi. This afternoon, I received an unexpected, and in some ways, a little bit  
50 disconcerting telephone call. Senator Mike Hatfield is a courtly gentleman,

002278

002279

but I have spent some decent fraction of my adult years fighting various things that he has proposed including the rider for hell and other forest policies that have been devastating in the Pacific Northwest and was therefore disconcerted and in a strange way pleased when asked to read from him a statement into your record.

Thank you for your invitation to participate in today's Department of Energy hearing on altering the 1989 Hanford Tri-Party Agreement and restarting the Fast Flux Test Facility for the purpose of the producing tritium for nuclear weapons. I regret that previous commitments prevent me from attending. The persistence by some to exhume nuclear weapons production activities at Hanford never ceases to amaze me. It is shameful enough that the region has not taken steps to close its only operating commercial nuclear reactor, WNP-2 at Hanford, even though an excellent case can be made against it now on purely economic grounds. The abdication of responsibility, however, pales in comparison to the insidious proposal to restart the aging FFTF research reactor. It is disappointing that this issue is even being seriously discussed here. In a region of the country that has learned the hard way that the price of nuclear technology is much higher than the experts and the proponents of nuclear power are ever honest enough to acknowledge. For example, the WPPSS nuclear debacle was one of the greatest economic disasters of the century. It continues to cost the region's electricity consumers 500 million dollars a year.

The Department of Energy was forced to stop lying to the public and to close the N Reactor at Hanford in 1988 when it was revealed that hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars were being wasted producing the product for which there was no need. The cleanup of the Hanford Reservation will cost hundreds of billions of dollars and could take decades to accomplish; and it continues to threaten human health and safety.

The Trojan Nuclear Power Plant in Oregon was closed because it was uneconomic; it still awaits decommissioning. Considering all this, how could any rational person or any rational bureaucracy, consider adding to the nuclear misery already visited upon the Pacific Northwest? How many lessons do we have to learn before we turn away from the broken promises of nuclear myths?

Hanford is already the greatest environmental threat to the people of the Pacific Northwest. Restarting any nuclear reactor for weapons production purposes is misguided at best and transparently evil at worst. It is also a clear violation of the spirit and the intent of the Tri-Party Agreement, and a complete reversal of our focused mission over the last 20 years to clean up the largest environmental disaster in the nation. Long ago, the Northwest made decisions that turned us away from nuclear production of weapons and material and electricity, and it's time again to reject the sermons of the nuclear proselytizers and to say no to those who preached death, destruction, and ruin to our world and our region.

That sounds an awful lot like what Ben Cohen was saying. But that was from a person who was a senior Republican Senator for, I believe, five terms from

1 Oregon, former Chairman of the Senator Appropriations Committee, former couple  
2 term Governor of Oregon, and despite my personal many disagreements with him  
3 for many decades, one of the outstanding political leaders of this region.  
4 We've had similar comments now come from Senator Wyden; from Elizabeth Furse;  
5 a magnificent statement from Governor Kitzhaber; a very strong statement from  
6 Vera Katz, who is the Mayor of Portland; almost unanimous votes from the House  
7 and the Senate of the Republican led legislature of Oregon. It's the one  
8 consistent figure in all of that. They are all from Oregon. And I guess it's  
9 up to us in this room to start looking for, asking for, demanding, similar  
10 levels of leadership from Washington.

11  
12 Pat Serie:

13 OK. We have Dave Johnson, please. Mr. Johnson, followed please by Dana Gold,  
14 Rosemary Brodie, and Martin Fleck.

15  
16 Dave Johnson:

17 My name is Dave Johnson and give you a little background. In 1960, I went to  
18 work for Hanford and I was a reactor, I did a lot of experiments on reactors  
19 in support of production of plutonium for nuclear weapons. After a few years,  
20 I went back to the University of Washington and I got my Ph.D. in nuclear  
21 physics. After that, in 1974, I went back to Hanford and I worked for  
22 Westinghouse Hanford Company on the FFTF project. I worked for a core physics  
23 group doing calculations, safety analyses in support of final design, and  
24 startup of the reactor. After that I went to another job within Westinghouse  
25 where I worked on accelerators. And a few years after that, I went to the  
26 Boeing Company and I worked on accelerators there. The accelerator part I'll  
27 explain later. I'm now retired and I feel like I'm free to talk from my  
28 heart.

29  
30 My views have changed quite a bit over the years. I wanted to question a  
31 number of assumptions that Department of Energy has used in coming to the  
32 conclusion that restart of the FFTF reactor is a good option. I want to show  
33 that if you reinterpret these five assumptions, I come to the conclusion that  
34 it's not a good idea to restart the reactor, and it would be a lot better to  
35 keep the Tri-Party Agreements as they are. I'll list the five assumptions:  
36 1) is that we need more tritium; these are Department of Energy assumptions;  
37 2) the FFTF is the best interim way to make the tritium; 3) is that reactor  
38 safety issues can be resolved quickly; 4) is that nuclear waste is not a  
39 problem; and 5) is that FFTF is a good way to make medical isotopes. I'll try  
40 to go over them individually, quickly.

41  
42 First, the Department of Energy says we need more tritium. Well, we've  
43 already heard a lot about that. The latest information is the 1994 document  
44 it says, but that things are changing quickly and I think it is pretty clear  
45 that it is going down rapidly and I'm hoping it will go to zero quickly.

46  
47 Two, the FFTF is the best interim way to make tritium, it says here. Well,  
48 one thing that's in its favor is that it doesn't make very much. It's one of  
49 the poorest candidates. In fact, one of the main advantages to the FFTF is  
50 that there's not much money that would be involved in starting it up and

shutting it off. Now that's kind of a cruel blow to people who might have hopes of jobs in the Tri-Cities, but that is in fact the case. A couple of better options for making large amounts of tritium or small amounts of tritium--for making small amounts of tritium, a small accelerator could be used, similar to what has been proposed by the Department of Energy for the large tritium production mission, but smaller. The second option would be to take the accelerator that is proposed for the large tritium production mission, which apparently could cost up to 5 billion dollars, although I don't know the details of the cost, and add to it a mission of burning excess weapons-grade plutonium; which is exactly the proposal that is in the FFTF, to use weapons-grade plutonium.

Pat Serie:  
One minute, please.

Dave Johnson: 002280  
What happens then is that this accelerator for producing tritium would produce power which would be sufficient to run the accelerator, so there is no cost running the accelerator, and it could be made to produce excess power which you could sell to the power grid. And so the costs are nowhere near the 5 billion dollars that has been proposed.

Pat Serie:  
Mr. Johnson, about one more minute, please.

Dave Johnson: 002280  
I'm going to have to rush, then. Third assumption was safety issues can be resolved quickly. I seriously doubt that. There's an issue of fuel restructuring and 42% plutonium where the plutonium may separate from the uranium, which reduces the Doppler effect and make changes in power to melt. There is a possibility of a sodium void coefficient being positive and such issues must be tested in the FFTF, which will slow down the program beyond what was stated in the technical document.

Fourth issue is that nuclear waste is not a problem, and the reason it's not a problem in the document is that they plan to irradiate the fuel and store it until there is a solution. Well, which is basically not looking at the problem.

The fifth is that FFTF is a good way to make medical isotopes. Sixty-four million dollars or about 15% of the budget DOE would spend for this proposal, is for medical isotopes. That same amount of money could be spent to build a small accelerator; this such an accelerator would make isotopes both from neutrons and charged particles as you get an advanced additional number of isotopes than from a reactor. There is no safety issues comparable to the FFTF and there is no spent fuel waste problems.

Pat Serie:  
Mr. Johnson, we need to ask you to finish. I'm sorry.

1 Dave Johnson:

2 The design is already done. In the late '70s and up to 1984, I worked on a  
3 project in Westinghouse Hanford called FMIT, which was an accelerated to do  
4 this very kind of thing, and so therefore FFTF is not the best way to spend  
5 64 million dollars to make isotopes.  
6

7 Pat Serie:

8 Thank you, Mr. Johnson. I know this sounds awful but Mr. Johnson is number 16  
9 and we have about 120 people signed up. So I am trying to be, in everyone's  
10 best interest, so let's go to Dana Gold, please, and Rosemary Brodie and  
11 Martin Fleck.  
12

13 Dana Gold:

14 Hi. I'll make my comments real brief. I work with Tom Carpenter with the  
15 Government and Accountability Project and these comments are made in both my  
16 organizational capacity and my individual capacity as a very concerned  
17 citizen. At the beginning of this hearing, Ernie Hughes stated that the  
18 premise of the restart FFTF was for the safe production of tritium and in my  
19 experience the notion that Hanford can do anything safely is a completely  
20 untenable position. Both the Department of Energy and its private contractors  
21 that run the facility have already demonstrated their total inability to fill  
22 their cleanup mandate to-date. For example, the Department of Energy finally  
23 admitted just last month what we have known for a year and a half from  
24 scientists, whistleblowers at Hanford, that radioactive waste leaking from the  
25 tank farms is migrating through the earth's vadose zone and has reached our  
26 groundwater in the Columbia River. Only when media, political, and litigation  
27 pressure became too much for the Department of Energy to dodge that they admit  
28 to the public that the horrific mess created by Hanford's production days is  
29 uncontained and unaddressed by its current cleanup plans. Hanford has  
30 evidenced only blatant disregard for the health and safety of its workers, the  
31 public, and the environment, and it stuns me that in the face of Hanford's  
32 utter inability to clean up its own existing mess, that they are even  
33 considering adding to the mess with the production of tritium at FFTF.  
34 Hanford is a cash cow for private contractors. The proposal to restart FFTF  
35 is motivated by pure greed and an over-attempt to feed that cow. In order to  
36 maintain the cash stream, Hanford management relies on the predictable pattern  
37 of obfuscation, secrecy, and deliberate disregard for the public interest, in  
38 favor of the private few and at the expense for our health, our safety, and  
39 our environment. Starting FFTF will only escalate this pattern as the stakes  
40 are raised and a production process increases the risk to our community. The  
41 Department of Energy and the Department of Ecology need to start enforcing  
42 their public mandates now. Please continue to express your outrage at the  
43 prospect of the restart of FFTF and demand accountability of and by the  
44 Department of Energy, the Department of Ecology, Governor Locke, and  
45 Senator Murray. Thanks.  
46

47 Pat Serie:

48 Rosemary Brodie, please. Then Martin Fleck and Cindi Laws next.  
49  
50



Rosemary Brodie:

I'm a physician. I'm here representing Seattle Women Act for Peace. I'm also a member of Washington PSR, but more than that I'm a grandmother and I think there are a number of other grandmothers in this audience. I'm a mother of three and I have seven grandchildren and I'm here representing them. And I'm proud to say that my daughter in Portland attended the hearing there and reported very accurately to me the wonderful turnout. And I think I have spawned another activist. Thank you very much.

002282

Pat Serie:

Martin Fleck and then Cindi Laws, and Scott McClay.

Martin Fleck:

I think I can do this in three minutes. My name is Martin Fleck. I'm a citizen of Seattle. I'm known around here for my work with Physicians for Social Responsibility, but I speak to you now as a private citizen representing myself and my ten year old son, who must cope with your decisions for the rest of his life. I direct my comments specifically to the Department of Energy and Washington Department of Ecology. I'm a little out of breath 'cause I ran from the back.

002283

Are you so blind that you cannot see what is so obvious to the rest of us? The creation of thousands of nuclear weapons and the byproducts of tons of nuclear waste ranks among the greatest human follies of all time. Hundreds of billions of dollars have already been wasted on this insane enterprise to create doomsday devices that we hope and pray are never used again. Here in Washington state, we are awash in nuclear bombs and nuclear waste. Some of the radioactive waste has reached groundwater and is contaminating the Columbia River. Now think about that for a minute. And think, how you would feel if some enemy had perpetrated that crime upon us? But no, this was done in the name of protecting us. Meanwhile, no one even knows the contents of some of the nuclear waste tanks at Hanford. No one knows how to safely cope with the plutonium created at Hanford with its radioactive half-life of 24,000 years. The rest of the world doesn't know whether to laugh at us or run in terror. Cleaning up Hanford is a monumental task which we cannot shirk. It is just as difficult, but far more important, than sending astronauts to the moon. And cleanup will require that same kind of relentless focus. It is Hanford's only mission for the next 30 years. Get on with it. But you people seem to think that you can step aside, look the other way, relight agreements, and allow Hanford to turn back history. You need a refresher course in the Hanford saga if you would consider even for a moment letting Hanford go back and create more bomb materials and more nuclear wastes there, as if we do not have enough already. Let's move forward and not backward. Prove to us that the Tri-Party Agreement is worth more than the paper it is written on. Hold the DOE accountable to it. I pay taxes to fund all of your salaries, so I am instructing you--stop this before it starts. Thank you.

1 Pat Serie:

2 OK. Let's keep moving. Cindi Laws is next. Cindi. Cindi. What I ask is  
3 that the three people who are on deck sort of get up close so we can move just  
4 as quickly as possibly through. We are launching into our second page. After  
5 Cindi, we have Scott McClay, John Reese ...  
6

7 **END OF TAPE**  
8

9 Cindi Laws:

10 I studied and read a lot of these reports, including the JASON Report and the  
11 Department of Energy's Defense Program Analysis. Within these reports--these  
12 are DOE's own reports done by DOE's own scientists and engineers--are  
13 startling number of references to safety concerns at the FFTF.  
14 Senators Murray and Gorton, Governor Locke, you aren't here, your  
15 representatives aren't here. Have you paid attention? Have you read the  
16 reports? Have you paid attention to these concerns when you supported the  
17 FFTF restart? Have you read the scientists and specialists that are hired by  
18 the DOE who have proposed these reports? Senators Murray and Gorton,  
19 Governor Locke, government planning documents say that the restart of the  
20 reactor requires 33 metric tons of plutonium to meet the tritium supply. But  
21 yet at the same time, you say you oppose the import of plutonium. So what  
22 does that mean when you support the FFTF? Senators Murray and Gorton,  
23 Governor Locke, these same government planning documents also say that the  
24 FFTF creates 60 metric tons of high-level nuclear waste. And yet  
25 Senator Murray, Governor Locke, you say you oppose the creation of more waste  
26 and you opposed that at the same time you support the restart of the FFTF.  
27 Where will this waste be stored? Will it be stored in the same manner, the  
28 same responsible manner, that allowed over 300 billion gallons of contaminated  
29 waste to be dumped directly into the ground at Hanford in the '50s? Will it  
30 be stored in the tanks, like those that are leaking into the Columbia River?  
31 Senators Murray and Locke, will you be responsible for the safety of the  
32 1.8 million people that live in and around the Columbia River? DOE's Defense  
33 Program states no engineer would propose a fast reactor to make tritium.  
34 Modifying a test reactor places the reliable operation of the plant at risk.  
35 That is DOE's own report. Have you read the report? Senators Murray and  
36 Governor Locke, where are you now? You support restarting the FFTF, but not  
37 the importation of waste, not the production of more waste, and not if safety  
38 is jeopardized. Senators Murray, Senator Gorton, Governor Locke, don't let  
39 your term in office be marked by changing the Hanford cleanup agreement to  
40 allow nuclear weapons production at Hanford. Senator Murray and  
41 Governor Locke, does your support for children include jeopardizing their  
42 future, their health, their safety, and their tax dollars for a pipe dream  
43 generated by contractors at Hanford? Hanford has already established its  
44 legacy. Senator Murray, Governor Locke, what will your legacy be? Will it be  
45 taking the Tri-Party Agreement and ripping it into little bits? I hope not.  
46

47 Pat Serie:

48 Scott McClay. Then John Reese, Erica Kay, Orange.  
49  
50

002285

Scott McClay:

My name is Scott McClay. I work with the Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia. We're a War-Resisters League affiliate and we oppose all war. And we think where we are today with Fast Flux on standby and where they propose to head is totally insane. And if they think that the people will let that go forward, they are insane. This turnout tonight, if in the face of almost no media coverage of the real reasons of tritium production at Fast Flux. And once those reasons get out, there is no way they can go forward with this production. Nuclear bombs are obscene and they are illegal under world court rulings, so tritium production perpetuates a world in which we are moving to eliminate and which legally we must eliminate. The only reason the DOE can get away with ripping up and destroying the Tri-Party Agreement is because we live in a national security state and it's our highest priority to undo that national security state and start making our military live by legal rules. The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty that was mentioned before, we are a legal signatory to it. It is a treaty that we promised threshold nuclear states and nonnuclear states that we would move towards abolishing all weapons. If we are to uphold that treaty obligation, we do not need tritium. The Fast Flux is a test facility. They're going to take it in a direction it's never been. The risk to that are incredibly extreme. They are going to use weapons-grade plutonium; it's going to be near threshold criticality for nuclear explosion. It's just a totally insane idea. It's one of the craziest things I've ever heard of in my years of antinuclear activism. If they think they can bring 33 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium into this state, or take it anywhere for a similar purpose, they are out of their minds. People will put their bodies on the line and that plutonium will not move. This proposal leads towards creating 60 tons of wastestream out of it. It's an incredible amount of waste; it's a huge percentage of still plutonium-239. Plutonium will not be destroyed, it just perpetuates the nuclear armories. We need to decommission the Fast Flux Test Facility now. We need to reestablish milestones in the Tri-Party Agreement and stick to them to force the national security state to finally stand firm and say they will abide by agreements, will follow the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, will abolish nuclear weapons. Currently, at Hanford we've spent over 3 billion dollars and made almost no progress in cleanup. There's still 200 or so vessels out there, we don't even know what's in them. We're not going anywhere in cleanup and they're proposing to create 60 metric tons more of extremely high-level nuclear waste. So, I say today the Tri-Party Agreement must be reestablished; those milestones must be set as soon as possible. We must meet those. Decommission Fast Flux cleanup, not start up.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. McClay. John Reese. Mr. Reese is number 22 on the list. Erica Kay, Orange, and Aaron Ostrom following John. Please be ready.

John Reese:

Yeah. My name is John Reese. And I've been in environmental consultant for 20 years, and I've worked with the Department of Ecology and also with the EPA. And the Weekly recently came out with a, what I agree is a very good name, for the Department of Ecology, which is the Department of Apology. I

002286

1 would have to add to that list the EPA. They're both departments of Apology  
2 and the Department of Energy is really the Department of Destruction. And I  
3 would say that we need to stop destroying and we need to stop apologizing, we  
4 need to stop the FFTF, and we need to clean up immediately. Thank you.  
5

6 Pat Serie:

7 Thank you, Mr. Reese. Erica Kay, then Orange, Aaron Ostrom, and Paige Leven,  
8 please.  
9

10 Erica Kay:

11 My name is Erica Kay and really the main thing I want to say here is a lot of  
12 people have left. I have estimated there were at least 400 people in the room  
13 and I think that is lower limit. And I know the vast majority of those people  
14 agree with me and what I have to say is, don't start Fast Flux, clean it up.  
15

16 Pat Serie:

17 Thank you. Orange. Then we'll have Aaron Ostrom, Paige Leven, and  
18 Daniel Norton, please.  
19

20 Orange:

21 Hello. I'm a college student of physics. I learned that in Einstein's good  
22 old equation  $e = mc^2$ , it's the equivalency of math and energy. It's what we  
23 use to produce nuclear power. But Einstein worked for peace. I've got here a  
24 bit of nuclear waste. I wouldn't go for a swim in it and I wouldn't wash my  
25 socks in, so I wouldn't condemn downstream Oregonians to do so, either. [Wait,  
26 I just received a channel from Einstein. He says he's really sorry about all  
27 this. You know, guys, bombs are bad.  
28

29 Pat Serie:

30 I would say, Ms. Orange, that we had some concern from the Seattle Center  
31 about green goop in the drains from the last budget meeting, so please don't  
32 put that in any drains. And also, then Paige Leven, Daniel Norton, and  
33 Ruth Yarrow, please.  
34

35 Aaron Ostrom:

36 And my name is Aaron Ostrom. I'm the Vice President of the Washington  
37 Environmental Council and I just want to say very simply, clearly, and briefly  
38 for the record, on behalf of the Washington Environmental Council, this  
39 stinks; it's a bad idea. Particularly I would like to direct that to the  
40 Department of Ecology, where once again we see a pattern of, instead of  
41 enforcing rules, rewriting them. And that's something we'd like to see  
42 changed. This is not a change that makes sense. It is not something that  
43 goes forward and it shouldn't happen. Thank you.  
44

45 Pat Serie:

46 Thank you, sir. Paige.  
47

48 Paige Leven:

49 Hello. My name is Paige Leven and I'm just going to start by saying I don't  
50 think I need to repeat what everybody in the audience seems to make very

clear. The people here understand that restarting the FFTF reactor would be a mistake. They understand the environmental catastrophe that goes along with potential starting of the FFTF reactor. They understand the safety problems and they're very, very clearly against it. What I want to say is, my comments are going to be directed primarily at Ecology. I want to say that I think it has been, at the very least a mistake, and at the most a complete and utter cop-out, to have deleted the milestones from the TPA. You guys are responsible for enforcing the cleanup agreement that you are a part of, that you entered into, along with the Department of Energy. It's your job to represent the people here. It's your job to represent our concerns. It's your job to make sure that those cleanup commitments are met by throwing away your leverage, by giving up the milestones in the TPA. You're not doing your job, and again, it's my tax dollars, it's our tax dollars that pay for your jobs, and we're demanding that you live up to your responsibilities. We're demanding that you hold the Department of Energy to their cleanup commitments. By throwing milestones out, you're throwing away your leverage, you're giving away our rights to protect ourselves against the deadly FFTF. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Paige. OK. Daniel Norton, then we have Ruth Yarrow, Lauren Tozzi, and Kristen Beifus, please.

Daniel Norton:

Thank you. My name is Daniel Norton. I'm here this evening as Chair Person of the King County Democratic Party and representative of the Democrats throughout the State of Washington, to remind this panel that the Democratic party at the state level at King County and at several local districts passed resolutions in 1966 that oppose the restart of the FFTF reactor for the purpose of producing tritium. The reason why we took that position is very simple. You've heard a lot of testimony about it tonight. First of all, tritium is not needed. Secondly, the public policy should be disarmament and not armament. Thirdly, this argument about isotopes is totally bogus and has been disapproved over and over again. And finally, it is the unequivocal position of the King County Democratic Party that this money has to be spent on cleaning up the waste at Hanford. I don't know how many more hearings we have to have to say this. I think this should be the end of it tonight. And just take care of it. Thank you.

002291

Pat Serie:

Thank you. Ruth. After Ruth, we'll have Lauren Tozzi, Kristen Beifus, and Alice Nugent. Please be ready.

Ruth Yarrow:

Good evening. My name is Ruth Yarrow. We've often heard the quote from Einstein that the nuclear bomb changed everything but our way of thinking. I'm here to say we need to change our way of thinking. That change demands that we maintain, not lift the cleanup milestones, for the Fast Flux reactor. We need to reject the false notion that nuclear weapons are keeping us safe. The cold war is over and the real threat to the health and safety of those of us here in the Northwest is the radioactive legacy from the last half century,

002292

1 the largest concentration of nuclear mess in the western world. We've heard  
2 how it's seeping towards the Columbia; we need to think in big numbers here,  
3 folks. This is high-level waste that's affecting not just four or five  
4 generations in the next century. We're talking over a thousand generations  
5 for some of this waste, for over 300 centuries. We can't conceive of what  
6 we've done here. It's time to clean it up. So we need to change our way of  
7 thinking about this cleanup. That means we need to realize that our real  
8 protectors are the folks who are working to clean it up. That means the  
9 engineers; it means the workers at Hanford. It means all of us that push for  
10 this cleanup. That means that if we really change our thinking about cleanup,  
11 it means that we can no longer, as some have, sneer at cleanup as mere women's  
12 work. It's the work of responsible adults, and they must have, all of us must  
13 have the highest respect and the greatest support for those who move towards  
14 real cleanup. So, I've got homework. I've been a teacher most of my life,  
15 for all of you, and I'm going to pass out the homework. And I've got three  
16 addresses here. At the very least I want you, hopefully each of you, write to  
17 Senator Patty Murray, to Governor Gary Locke, to Secretary of  
18 Energy Federico Peña and let him know what you think. We're here to give our  
19 testimony to these folks, but we can only advise them. What we have has no  
20 teeth, this is what, this is our teeth. We can tell these folks that we can  
21 vote them out, recommend them out if they don't really listen. So, I'd just  
22 like to end by saying that there doesn't need to be a division between the  
23 people of this side of the mountain and the people who live in the Tri-Cities.  
24 We all want jobs for folks so they can earn a living, but we need, as  
25 Dr. Trombold said, those jobs need to be in cleanup. So let's change our way  
26 of thinking. And we have this huge mess to clean up and let's clean it up  
27 just like you've taught your kids, before you start another mess, before you  
28 even think about starting another mess. Do your homework.

29  
30 Pat Serie:

31 Thank you. Lauren. After Lauren, we'll have Kristen Beifus, Alice Nugent,  
32 and Nancy Dickeman, please.  
33

34 Lauren Tozzi:

35 My name is Lauren Tozzi and I'm a teacher. I'm also an activist and a  
36 community organizer with many organizations, notably the National Organization  
37 for Women. But most importantly, I'm a member of the human race. The sign  
38 here says, stop talking and start listening. But I didn't make this sign. If  
39 I had, it would have said, stop lying and start listening. To say that FFTF  
40 will produce medical isotopes for a cure to cancer is a lie and a sham. The  
41 only thing FFTF will produce is more cancer and more death. I teach four,  
42 five, and six year olds. And they call themselves friends of the earth,  
43 because they reuse, they recycle, and they only use what they need. They know  
44 that when they make a mess, they don't make more of a mess, they clean it up.  
45 Because that is the right thing to do. If you can't listen to us adults, then  
46 please listen to the children. Because they will be the recipients of this  
47 environmental madness. And as Chief Seattle said, we the people are strands  
48 in the web of life. What we do to the web we do to ourselves. The earth is  
49 our mother and like your own mothers, you love them, you don't hurt them.  
50 Lastly, it's really elementary. Startup, no; cleanup, yes.

002293

1 Pat Serie:

2 OK. Kristen Beifus, then Alice Nugent, Nancy Dickeman, and Anna Johnson.  
3 Please be ready.  
4

5 Kristen Beifus:

6 Hi. I'm Kristen Beifus and I work with the Government Accountability Project.  
7 And I was fortunate enough to be able to attend FFTF hearing in Portland just  
8 last week. And I know some of you were there, and I wish all of you could  
9 have been there. As a resident of Washington, I watched Mary Lou Blazek from  
10 the Oregon Department of Energy representing Governor Kitzhaber's office begin  
11 her statement by saying, the State of Oregon is against any changes to the  
12 Tri-Party Agreement, opening up Hanford to a new production mission. I saw  
13 Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse talk about the communities of the Columbia River  
14 and the effect new wastestreams will have on the millions of people of Oregon  
15 that live along the river, as well as the City of Portland, the biggest city  
16 of Oregon. Statements of outrage were read by Senator Ron Wyden and  
17 Senator Hatfield calling the plan to change the Tri-Party Agreement insidious,  
18 wrong, and transparently evil. Congressman Blumenauer also had a statement  
19 that expressed his grave concern about changing the Tri-Party Agreement.  
20 Oregon State Senator Kate Brown and Oregon State Representative Frank Shields  
21 came to the meeting themselves and expressed that the only piece of  
22 legislation both the Republicans and the Democrats agreed on in the State of  
23 Oregon has been with unanimous proportions, was no new mission for Hanford.  
24 And the whole while sitting there as a resident of Washington, one thought  
25 kept coming through my head: the State of Washington is a really crummy  
26 neighbor. How could our Department of Ecology possibly sit through compelling  
27 statement after compelling statement from the legislators of Oregon, as well  
28 as the even more compelling statements of the hundreds of Oregonians who came,  
29 and not feel the same sense of shame that I felt as a representative of a  
30 state that prides itself as a member of the Northwest community, being  
31 involved in protecting our environment, our futures, our health. The  
32 Department of Energy has become more influential in the State of Washington  
33 than our neighbor Oregon, who we share not only our waterways, but our  
34 resources, and a history. The path we're following right now, we will have no  
35 future with Oregon as a friendly neighbor. I ask the Department of Ecology,  
36 Governor Locke, Senator Patty Murray--why is the State of Washington  
37 alienating our neighbors, ignoring expert opinions on the safety hazards of  
38 FFTF, and not listening to its own citizens in order to put Hanford back into  
39 the cold war era? The Department of Energy had quoted in the other Washington  
40 is not our neighbor. They poison our people, they create more radioactive  
41 waste, attempt to silence our workers who raise safety concerns, hire  
42 unscrupulous contractors who are only driven by meeting their deadlines anyway  
43 they can. DOE is ever reducing the cleanup budget, yet they use 32 million  
44 dollars a year to keep the FFTF in hot standby indefinitely. Although they  
45 profess openness, they are still not forthcoming with information about the  
46 hazards of Hanford. The Department of Energy has proven time and time again  
47 it does not care about the Northwest community. It clearly does not respect  
48 the agreement that it has with us. Washington state needs to stop acting like  
49 the Department of Ecology and not break our valued covenants between the  
50 people of the Northwest and our federal government. The Department of Ecology

002294

needs to be a model for the Northwest. Hold the federal government to their cleanup promises; do not change the Tri-Party Agreement for it is the leverage that the people of the Northwest have to hold the Department of Energy accountable. Governor Locke, Senator Murray, listen to the outcries from Oregon, as well as the people of your state. Be a good neighbor. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Kristen. I am pleased to report that we are only eight speakers away from the Raging Grannies, so we are making progress here. This is Alice Nugent.

Alice Nugent:

My name is Alice Nugent and I'm a housewife. And I've had six and a half weeks of radiation therapy and that's all the nuclear power I want to have. Thank you. First of all, I want to express my anger; I'm really angry that we have to do this again. Come on, guys, for 50 years, we've known the dangers of nuclear power. Why do we have to go through this all over again? I've heard all of you speak about, more eloquently than I could ever speak, about how we shouldn't do away with the TPA, about the dangers of what's happening over at Hanford. We know that there are money-grubbing contractors over there that just can't wait to get their hands on the contracts that would happen if that reactor were restarted. Well, we've heard all that. I won't go into it anymore, but I do think that the TPA should live up to its agreements. And I do want to say, especially to Governor Locke, listen to us, the people who have spoken here. I just wish he could have been here and I hope people will go back and tell him how important it is to abide by the agreements that we've already made. Then I want to say to all of you, have you really thought through the permanent effects of what will happen if that reactor started again? Now I'm going to wind up by saying what one of my friends said when she heard I was coming. She said, "It's not OK to restart that reactor." Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Ms. Nugent. OK. Nancy Dickeman, please. Then we have Anna Johnson, Tiffany Devoy, and Jane Beltinhouse next, please.

Nancy Dickeman:

I grew up surrounded by the belief in the purity of science. Yet decades since that time, the idea of infallibility has unraveled as consequences that were not foreseen, have caused severe contamination to the land, the water, and to the river. The desire to put the FFTF into use for tritium and isotope production is not matched by the knowledge and technological ability to deal safely with both its proposed operations and with its after effects decades and centuries from now. A great mistake today would be to place our faith in science ahead of our certainty in science. I support maintaining the milestones for the Tri-Party Agreement and I oppose the FFTF on grounds that it signals a renewed thrust towards the reliance on, and possible use of, nuclear weapons. And for its dubious ability to function without harm to our environment. I was born and raised in Richland. My father worked at Hanford; we played in the desert, were engulfed by sand during the wind and dust



3. storms, and swam in the waters of the Columbia. As a child, I remember when  
4 we drove away watching the river wind its way to the desert. I didn't know  
5 then what the desert and the river held, how both land and water accept what  
6 is given to them and invisibly change the world.

7 Pat Serie:

8 Thank you, Ms. Dickeman. Anna Johnson and then Tiffany Devoy,  
9 Jane Beltinhouse, and Ed Kramer.

10 Kay Thode:

11 Anna Johnson is one of the Raging Grannies and the rest of the Raging Grannies  
12 had to leave. So my name is Kay Thode, and I'll give you my testimony, and if  
13 you have time, I'll sing you one of our songs. I'm tempted to ask, what about  
14 no don't you understand? On April 3<sup>rd</sup> last year this facility was filled with  
15 people who testified against spending 32 million cleanup dollars to maintain  
16 the Fast Flux Test reactor on standby. Despite overwhelming support for  
17 decommissioning this facility, the U.S. Department of Energy kept the facility  
18 on standby and now is considering spending 430 million dollars more to restart  
19 FFTF to produce nuclear weapons. This is a time when Hanford contractors and  
20 say there is not enough money in the Hanford budget to continue pumping the  
21 leaky tanks. To use FFTF to produce tritium for nuclear warheads would be  
22 dangerous, illegal, immoral, irrational, and unnecessary. It would be  
23 dangerous to import the hundreds of tons of plutonium needed for tritium  
24 production into Washington state. It would be dangerous to modify FFTF to  
25 make tritium. To quote from the U.S. Department of Energy's Defense Program  
26 areas of concern on the FFTF, "Modifying a test reactor places the reliable  
27 operation of the plant at risk." It is illegal to consider FFTF for tritium  
28 production without a prior environmental review. It is immoral to do any  
29 cleanup deadlines when the last major salmon spawning ground on the Columbia  
30 River is endangered of being contaminated. It is immoral and irrational to  
31 propose an operation which will create tons of additional high-level nuclear  
32 waste when cleanup of the current waste is underfunded. It is irrational to  
33 add another complex operation at a facility whose management has demonstrated  
34 their inability to properly manage the cleanup. It is unnecessary to produce  
35 more nuclear warheads. The cold war is over. Against whom are we going to  
36 use nuclear weapons and risk World War III? The cost to produce even more  
37 waste would far outweigh any economic benefits to be derived from restarting  
38 the FFTF. If its 430 million dollars proposed for tritium production were  
39 used for cleanup, we would reap economic benefits and salmon protection, and  
40 opportunities for diverse peaceful environmentally sound activities at  
41 Hanford, including monitoring the downwinders. It is bad public policy to  
42 delay deactivation of the FFTF. Shut this facility down now. Redirect  
43 nuclear weapons production dollars to enhance cleanup.

44 Pat Serie:

45 You do have about two minutes left if you'd like to share that song with us.

46 Kay Thode:

47 I must tell you that we're not much of singers, we're message givers. [She  
48 sings]: Now the cold war is over, now we have peace at last. Why are we

002297

002297

1 spending billions on weapons as in past? Have we channeled our military  
2 budget to give us jobs and health? Or are we still squandering money on  
3 missiles which take so much wealth. It's up to the folks of our country,  
4 people like you and me, to express our concern and outrage against such a long  
5 policy. We surely can stop this nonsense, we must say what we stand for: a  
6 world that is peaceful and friendly and free from the horrors of war.

7  
8 Pat Serie:

9 OK. Tiffany. Thank you, Ms. Thode. This is Tiffany Devoy, and then  
10 Jane Beltinhouse, Ed Kramer, and Carolyn Canafax, please.

11 Tiffany Devoy:

12 My comments are going to be really brief. And I thank everybody who has come  
13 tonight and waited all this time to speak. That you're showing how much you  
14 care about this issue is fantastic. I think the main point that I have to  
15 make is I don't think you should change the TPA. You're saying that it's a  
16 bad precedent to leave milestones in that you're not going to be enforcing and  
17 yet leave milestones unenforced every year, every day. You're making excuses  
18 for the Department of Energy and I just don't think that's your job. You're  
19 just supposed to be regulators; you're not there to explain away the  
20 Department of Energy's wrongdoings. The point I am most baffled about is, and  
21 I just think it is something that you should be so ashamed of at the  
22 Department of Energy, is that you won't fund research on downwinders to save,  
23 what seven to nine lives, seven to eight lives, a year. But you will fund the  
24 Fast Flux Test Facility. And it's really hard to put a human, like how much  
25 is a human life worth? But apparently eight human lives are not worth the  
26 12 million dollars a year that you would have to spend on the downwinders.  
27 But tritium is something that you are willing to spend your money on and I  
28 think that is something the Department of Energy should really be ashamed of.  
29 That's all.

30  
31  
32 Pat Serie:

33 Thank you. Jane Beltinhouse. After Jane, we'll have Ed Kramer,  
34 Carolyn Canafax, and Fred Utevsky, please.

35 Jane Beltinhouse:

36 I just want to see if this was still on. Last week in the newspaper, didn't  
37 we see something about Sadam Hussein? He was taking it in the short hairs  
38 from all of us because he was conducting tests on his population, chemical  
39 weapons tests on his population without their knowledge? Right? Right, OK,  
40 food for thought, boys and girls. Another word comes to mind here and that's  
41 O-rings. Do we remember O-rings? Yes? OK. I used to do background  
42 investigations for a company here in Seattle and I did a lot of clearances for  
43 the boys that go to Hanford. And I know what a contractor is. You're a  
44 contractor, you're a contractor, you're a contractor, you're a contractor;  
45 we're all contractors in one way or another. The scary thing about  
46 contractors is, contractors lose their car keys. Ya know, and the guy I  
47 really want working in a nuclear power plant is that guy who just can't stand  
48 that little crack down there. He's just got to fix that crack that's  
49 bothering him. Unfortunately, there's not too many of those kind of people  
50

1 that are anal-retentive working in nuclear power plants; so until there is,  
2 we're still going to have O-rings that fail and we're still going to have  
3 people who lose their car keys. And they're all going to be out there working  
4 and that's our water and that's our air and that's everything. We should get  
5 real about this now. What do we really want? What do we want? Let's stop  
6 calling each other consumers; let's stop calling each other contractors; let's  
7 stop calling each other population groups; let's stop dehumanizing each other  
8 and just stop the whole train for a second here. We're people, we're beings  
9 on planet earth and this game has gone on long enough. Let's just wake up for  
10 a second because that all it'll take.  
11

12 Pat Serie:

13 Thank you, Ms. Beltinhouse. Mr. Kramer, please come on up. Carolyn Canafax,  
14 Fred Utevsky, and Norman Kunkel after that, please.  
15

16 Ed Kramer:

17 My name is Ed Kramer. I have kids and I grandkids. I'm not part of a group  
18 here, but about ten years ago when I first became aware of this toxic  
19 substance filtering into the ground, I also swim in the Columbia, I became  
20 really angry at, I felt like a victim, impotent, because what do we do? How  
21 can any government consciously allow this kind of waste to develop as a  
22 natural product of whatever it does? And I was encouraged a few years later  
23 when this massive effort towards cleanup became funded and then a few years  
24 after that I began learning that we really didn't know how to clean this stuff  
25 up. And now we're hearing that maybe even after all this, I don't know how  
26 many hundreds of millions have been spent, but we have seepage that has been  
27 discussed here. So when I see this kind of effort that is being promoted,  
28 this FFTF, and the emphasis taken off of the waste reduction, I just don't  
29 understand it. And I'm disappointed and looking for a much stronger show of  
30 leadership from the Governor who I voted for and the Senator who I voted for.  
31 I think we're all jaded in this country with a lack of confidence and smoke  
32 and mirrors we perceive coming from government. And this waffling seems to be  
33 one more bit of evidence on that and I think there's an opportunity for  
34 leadership that we're looking for and our kids are looking for integrity on  
35 this cleanup issue. And I really ask the people at this table to look into  
36 their, look at what you're doing when you make these decisions that affect us  
37 and affect the children and our children's children. And we don't know how  
38 we're going to deal with the waste that's going to be created and it is being  
39 created by these efforts.  
40

41 Pat Serie:

42 Carolyn Canafax, please. Ms. Canafax. Excuse me. I'm being mobbed at the  
43 podium. Fred Utevsky, then Norman Kunkel, please. How about Dane Spencer,  
44 Greg Wingard. Mr. Wingard, great.  
45

46 Greg Wingard:

47 Don't go anywhere. I've got comments for you. I'm part of the mob that was  
48 just referred a moment ago. My name is Greg Wingard, I'm a board member of  
49 Dawn Watch. Dawn Watch is an organization that is fighting a proposal that's  
50 being called a cleanup, and is actually the importation of nuclear waste by a

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002301

1 company called Newmont, a big gold company, into the State of Washington,  
2 immediately adjacent to the Spokane Indian Reservation. They're seeking to  
3 get their waste from Department of Energy.  
4

5 Anyhow, I have a couple of comments right off the top. First off, to the  
6 Department of Energy. How dare you come here tonight and tell use that you  
7 unilaterally decided to change the goals and objectives of the Tri-Party  
8 Agreement? Agreements, treaties, interagency protocols, contracts have a  
9 basic assumption, that is that if you're goin' to change the terms, that all  
10 parties must agree to the changes. Otherwise, what you have is a situation of  
11 unilateral imposition of power that is not a treaty, it's not a contract, it's  
12 not an agreement; it is a corrupt system of power being used by bullies that  
13 don't deserve the power that's been entrusted to them.  
14

15 Second point is Department of Ecology. How dare you come here tonight? How  
16 dare you change these protocols and agree to change these protocols without  
17 even telling us that you were going to do it. Why didn't you come to us and  
18 ask for our aid? Us, the people of Washington, who you are sworn to protect.  
19 You're sworn to protect our health, you're sworn to protect our environment.  
20 There is nothing in that contract in your creation about swearing to protect  
21 or swearing to do deals with the Department of Energy to the detriment of the  
22 people of Washington. This issue is one that's been before us for decades  
23 now.  
24

25 I got involved in the 1970s. The nuclear power industry is propped up by  
26 pimps and thieves, primarily at the Department of Energy, which used to be the  
27 Atomic Energy Commission. I call it pimps and thieves for very good reasons.  
28 The mission that Department of Energy has been involved in is propping up the  
29 system that can't pay for itself, so they steal from us to put money in the  
30 pockets of a few people who are very rich, companies that don't belong here  
31 and are from countries other than the United States of America and supporting  
32 the system that is morally bankrupt.  
33

34 Thievery is pretty simple. Department of Energy and its predecessor, Atomic  
35 Energy Commission, you stole the land from the Yakama Tribe. You promised to  
36 give it back; you stole it, you've kept it, you've poisoned it, and you're  
37 never giving it back. That's called thievery. There was a thing called the  
38 Washington Public Power Supply System. The Department of Energy and its  
39 predecessor, you've been involved in that as well, along with the sister  
40 agency called the Bonneville Power Administration. And you stole billions of  
41 dollars from us. You stole it by representing the bond holders that the bonds  
42 were going to be worth money, even long after you knew you were going to be  
43 involved in the worst bond default this nation has seen. You stole money from  
44 the rate payers and you created a sham shell game that will allow you to  
45 continue stealing money from the rate payers. So now we hear that was all  
46 based on a rate forecast for electrical energy that said it was going to grow  
47 at some fantastic percentage a year forever. Washington public interest  
48 research group did a forecast showing that it would grow at maybe one or two  
49 percent per year. And in fact there's a good chance of negative load growth,  
50 which your representatives told us we were insane at the time for even

1 suggesting a negative load growth. Guess what happened? We were right; you  
2 were dead wrong. But you were propping up an industry; you had a mission.  
3 Now we're being told there's this fantastic rate growth going to happen in  
4 nuclear isotopes for medical treatment. And we've heard from people who are  
5 in the business. We've heard from some of the people whose job it actually  
6 is, that they're actually the largest consumers of these materials tell us  
7 total sham. There is no growth like its being projected.  
8

9 So stop the lies, number one. Number two, when you come back here and you pay  
10 back the Yakama Tribe, when you pay back the bond holders, when you pay back  
11 the rate payers for nuclear power plants that never got built so we really got  
12 ripped off. I mean this isn't just from nuclear power plants that broke out  
13 old and have a lot of waste need to be cleaned up. This is from a sham that  
14 never even got built and we still got ripped off.  
15

16 Pat Serie:

17 Mr. Wingard, we need to finish, please.  
18

19 Greg Wingard:

20 When that gets done, when you clean up Hanford and meet your agreements and  
21 meet the agreements that we've agreed on, not the ones that the Secretary  
22 finds convenient that makes agreements with industry and gives them a good  
23 deal. When you've done all that, which is going to be a century or so from  
24 now, then, then come here and talk to us about your new plans. And until  
25 then, we don't want to see you; we don't want to hear from you. Do your job;  
26 clean up Hanford; get out of our faces with the Fast Flux Test Facility.  
27

28 Pat Serie:

29 Thank you, Mr. Wingard. OK. I'm afraid I can't read this name, I believe it  
30 is Mora, Morna King. I apologize I just ... is there some named King here who  
31 remembers they were number 47? OK. Robert Haug, then Fred Leitz, and  
32 Phyllis Fiege. Mr. Haug, thank you.  
33

34 Robert Haug:

35 My name is Bob Haug. I'm from the Green Party of Seattle. It's obvious, of  
36 course, where the Green Party stands with this. We wouldn't be green if we  
37 didn't. But I want to recount something that ... because everybody ... people  
38 here have already said just about everything there is to be said. So I'll  
39 just take a few minutes to tell you something about myself. Forty years ago,  
40 I was a newspaper reporter covering a hearing just like this in Elk River,  
41 Minnesota, where they were building one of the early atomic energy plants.  
42 The question that came up over, and over, and over, and over, what are you  
43 going to with the waste? And every time they said, we will find ways within a  
44 few years; just wait. Hey, baby, I'm still waitin'.  
45

46 Pat Serie:

47 Thank you, Mr. Haug. Just one second, please. Fred Leitz. Fred, no?  
48 Phyllis Fiege, then Fred Miller, Catherine O'Neale, and Sylvia Haven, please.  
49

1 Phyllis Fiege:

2 I'm a grandmother, one of those they talk about, concerned for my  
3 grandchildren. And I am also Chair of Peace Action for Snohomish County and  
4 representing a number of people. Everyone who has testified has given you  
5 expert information and can do it far better than I. But I would like to say  
6 to Mr. Stanley and to Mr. Wilson, I've been a supporter of Gary Locke and I  
7 want you to go to him and tell him, please, to listen to the experts that we  
8 should not modify that agreement. You mentioned Mr. ...

002303

9  
10 **END OF TAPE**

11  
12 Phyllis Fiege:

13 ... part of redoing the Tri-Party Agreement. And I say you will have more  
14 credibility if you leave those dates to ...

002303

15  
16 Inaudible

17  
18 Phyllis Fiege:

19 ... put the pressure on ... far more credibility. And next to Mr. Hughes and  
20 Mr. Yerxa, I'm sure you gentlemen have heard a lot of testimony that must give  
21 you food for thought. So I plead with you to join the other whistleblowers  
22 and stop this madness.

002303

23  
24 Pat Serie:

25 Fred Miller, is Fred Miller here? Fred Miller? Then Catherine O'Neale,  
26 Sylvia Haven, and Bob Talbert, please.

27  
28 Fred Miller:

29 We have been at this for a few hours and most of the things I was going to say  
30 have already been said very well. Just a couple of points though. First is,  
31 since Hanford began, since before Hanford began, there has been deliberate  
32 efforts to mislead people. It started out as the Manhattan Project and still  
33 we have the Fast Flux Test Facility; that's a name with almost no meaning to  
34 99.9% of the people. So I would suggest that, depending upon what course the  
35 Department of Energy wishes to take with it, you give it a new name. Either  
36 call it The Turning Point, the point where finally Hanford stopped going the  
37 wrong direction and started heading in the right direction. And then you can  
38 be very proud of ... or call it the Nuclear Weapons Materials Production  
39 Factory. I think about everyone can understand that. My second point,  
40 Hanford, the production of tritium has tremendous implications for the rest of  
41 the world. The implications for U.S./Russian negotiations had been talked  
42 about at length. But the implications for other countries in the arms race  
43 have not been. Have over here a bar graph, a very simple bar graph, showing  
44 the current status of the arms race the United States and the six countries  
45 that the Pentagon says we're most likely to go to war against. The length of  
46 the bar's proportional to their spending every year on their military. The  
47 reason this is germane is because week after week, I'm reading in the  
48 newspaper that the U.S. is gearing up to nuke Iraq, to nuke Libya, to use  
49 nuclear weapons to stop weapons of mass destruction. The reason that Iraq,  
50 Libya, and democratically elected third world countries like India, are

002304

1 refusing to go along with the U.S. program for their disarmament is because  
2 they see the length of that bar graph. And they see that although the U.S.  
3 talks a good talk, it doesn't walk its talk. We talk about reducing nuclear  
4 weapons and we insist that it would be obscene if Pakistan should develop one  
5 nuclear bomb and we intervene massively to keep North Korea from developing  
6 one or two nuclear bombs, but we can't stop it ourselves. We can't slow  
7 ourselves down; we keep on lengthening that bar graph. In fact, that bar  
8 graph is longer by about a foot than what the military requested because  
9 Congress had to give some more pork to buy some more votes to keep themselves  
10 in office. This is one more example of more pork. Thank you.

11  
12 Pat Serie:

13 Thank you, Mr. Miller. Catherine O'Neale. Sylvia Haven, Bob Talbert, and  
14 Mary Hanson, please.

15  
16 Catherine O'Neale:

17 Hello. My name is Catherine O'Neale. Thank you, thank you all for staying.  
18 I know I still have a long drive on the freeway and it's worth it to be here,  
19 so congratulations. Do you all have the address of Patty Murray? Now you're  
20 going to get the phone number. Get your pencils out. Here it is:  
21 (202) 224-2621. OK. OK. Let's do it again. Senator Patty Murray's direct  
22 office number, this is D.C. obviously: (202) 224-2621. I called her today;  
23 didn't get her on the line, but talked to one of her energy people ... did  
24 everybody get that now? Do you want me to say it one more time? One more  
25 time: (202) 224-4621. She should ... so she shouldn't hear it from anybody,  
26 but just the people that are in. Keep that phone off the hook tomorrow.

27  
28 Anyway, I called her office to talk with her because I wanted to be sure that  
29 she hadn't changed her mind about this. But I had to get a clear period about  
30 a lot of the things about what she is up to, so this is from her energy  
31 person. Senator Murray will abide by the decision of U.S. DOE if, number one,  
32 the public must be involved in the decision; number two, medical isotopes must  
33 be part of the plan; and number three, no use of cleanup monies. Obviously  
34 Senator Murray needs your help in the educational aspects of some things that  
35 you've learned here tonight and I've learned here tonight, so please call her  
36 and give her as much information as you think she needs to get on the right  
37 side of this issue.

38  
39 I brought to you an additional reason that hasn't been voiced tonight,  
40 something that I sort of discovered while pouring over Hanford books that I  
41 keep on my bedside, believe it or not. And finally something that went ding,  
42 ding, ding, ding, ding, ding. Finally there's enough trouble at Hanford; OK,  
43 that one piece of trouble is going to help us get out of another piece of  
44 trouble. It's called magic. And this is what it is: the FFTF plant sits on  
45 the lip of the tritium plume that is two and one-half miles from the North  
46 Richland water wells at present. When you do something in a factory you use a  
47 lot of water. What other things, liquid things, and those things go into  
48 drains, OK. And those drains go into the aquifer. Right. So we got process  
49 sewers from this and then they got sanitary sewage, and then what they do is  
50 ship their sanitary sewage over to WPPSS, treat it and put it in the aquifer.

002305

2 So aquifer is the water that is contained below the surface of the ground. It  
3 is called the ... I won't go into it. Anyway, believe me, there is this  
4 tritium plume that has been a part of the cleanup efforts for a long time.  
5 You know they just kept putting tritium into the ground thinking it was going  
6 to decay within 12 years. Well, you know this isn't, they just put too much  
7 in. I mean it's still there and it's a very big threat so we're going to do  
8 here is pull a plant up online that's going to be putting more fluid into the  
9 aquifer. Not only this plant, but another plant that had really nothing to do  
10 with FFTF is going to be built adjacent; not really adjacent, but you know  
11 within 500 yards is going to be doing the same thing. So now we have a whole  
12 lot of water in the aquifer pushing the tritiated water to the North Richland  
13 water wells. So when, if this, let's hope not, if this plant goes online, we  
14 are beginning to threaten the lives of 100,000 people in the State of  
15 Washington. That's the population of the Tri-Cities combined. I combined it  
16 because they tend to visit each other and drink each other's water, OK. And,  
17 so there's lots of reasons that this plant shouldn't happen and that's got to  
18 be a big one and it's something we need to be very, very concerned about. The  
19 last thing I want to say is that also I oppose this because it means to  
20 transport of plutonium into this state. I want you to understand that it is  
21 not OK to transport nuclear material within the United States or anywhere  
22 else. It is, we've always taken it for granted, that those guys that tell the  
23 truth all the time, the U.S. Department of Energy, is taking care of us when  
24 it comes to the transport of nuclear waste into our state, wrong. They have a  
25 certain amount of radioactivity is allowed to escape off of their shipments  
26 and they're hoping that you're not standin' right next to it or that there is  
27 not a gridlock and you and your family are sitting right next to it and can't  
28 get out.

29 Pat Serie:

30 Ms. O'Neale, we need to finish please.

31 Catherine O'Neale:

32 Final thing is that about the part of the transportation nuclear waste in this  
33 country is also threatened by the fashionable situation of espionage. OK, and  
34 people are, say you know how many terrorists can run away with plutonium in  
35 their pocket? How far would they get? As I'm sure we all know after looking  
36 at the New York bombing and such things, we have domestic and we have  
37 international terrorists that would use, that might use that situation, not to  
38 steal and try to make money running across the border with plutonium in their  
39 jeans, instead to irradiate an entire area. And by choosing the right time  
40 and the right shipment, there's no way the U.S. Department of Energy can  
41 promise us that this would not happen. So I thank you for your time tonight  
42 and I hoping this will never, never happen.

43 Pat Serie:

44 OK. Thank you. Sylvia Haven, then Bob Talbert, Mary Hanson, and  
45 Alexandra Pye, please.  
46  
47  
48  
49

002305



Sylvia Haven:

My name is Sylvia Haven and I represent myself. But I also have a lot of friends and I promised to take back to them my impressions of what I've heard going on here. And what I feel is that the passion is with the group that opposes abrogating the cleanup deadlines and we're all out in the open and making a lot of noise. We're opposed to a bureaucracy which has a lot of power and seems to me to be influenced by people who aren't so open and loud and fair about their reasons. And if I were a cynic, I might fear for the future of our representative government; or I might fear for a species that chooses to foul its own nest twice in the very same place, but I hope you are going to prove those cynics wrong.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Ms. Haven. Bob Talbert, then we'll have Mary Hanson, Alexandra Pye, and Warren Jones, please.

Bob Talbert:

Citizen Bob, I'm antiwar and I ...

Inaudible

Bob Talbert:

... weapons of mass destruction and antimilitary, have been since the '60s. I was one of our nations hired killers back then. I earned the right to have the opinions that I have. I want to straighten out a bunch of things. I think there's been a lot of misinformation tonight. FFTF restart requires 33 metric tons of plutonium. For restart the FFTF reactor relies on importing virtually all of the nations weapon-grade plutonium. If that, in fact is true, this is good, because there's none left to make hydrogen bombs. If you read Richard Rhodes book, or if you know anything about nuclear physics, it takes a bunch of plutonium and little bit of tritium to make a hydrogen bomb. It's the synergy between the two that makes the boom so loud. If, in fact, all the weapons-grade plutonium ends up in FFTF as fuel, that's great. There can be no weapons, so your technical advisor, you need to talk to him. This is syllogism. The conclusion is not sequitur, your premise is wrong. I have other things to do in my three minutes. Just wanted to tell you that the paragraph is dead wrong.

Regarding bomb calcs. I know a lot about bombs. I hate bombs, that is why I know a lot about bombs. The reactionary of the bomb is measured in something called beta. The beta of a reactor in an excursion is about 4. The beta of a thermonuclear device for a very, very, very short period of time is about 80. Is the difference a factor at 20? No. The difference is a factor of E to the 20. E cubed is about 3 so 2 to the 7<sup>th</sup> x 10 to the 7<sup>th</sup>, so about 256 million times faster. So much for bomb calcs. A reactor is not a bomb. It doesn't happen. It ain't gonna ever happen.

As far as having all the isotopes that they need over here at the hospital, well let me read you somethin'. This went to Murray and Gorton. Kid was dyin' of prostate cancer: "Dear Senators, my son, Richard Gates, which is

1 attempting to get isotopes treatment for prostate cancer in Seattle. He has  
2 been advised that there are no isotopes available in the Seattle area.  
3 Sincerely T. R. Gates, Kennewick," blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. This  
4 happened to be May '97. The CEO of Intel had prostate cancer. He's in  
5 Cupertino. He got phosphorous-32, he's fine today. I went back after the two  
6 doctors spoke and asked them, wait a second, how come this guy couldn't get  
7 phosphorous-32 and some billionaire in Cupertino could? Their answer was we  
8 don't treat prostate cancer up here. OK, so I'm a codger, I'm 55, good chance  
9 I'm going to get prostate cancer, what do I do? Become a billionaire and go  
10 to Cupertino. Come on. Also she said everybody gets all the isotopes they  
11 need. Well Sally Denardo, let me read this into the record, "We could not  
12 complete this study because the isotope could not be made available on a  
13 regular basis with all the trying of all the individuals in these various  
14 facilities and they did work hard to make this work." She's talking about  
15 copper-67. Copper-67 is typically made with an mp reaction. There is so much  
16 to say.

17  
18 Pat Serie:

19 One minute, Mr. Talbert, please.

20  
21 Bob Talbert:

22 Anyway, OK, advances in cardiovascular radiation therapy. Thursday,  
23 February 20; Friday, February 21, 1997 a pervasive thing that came out of this  
24 was that we can't get the esoteric isotopes to be able to further our clinical  
25 trials. Something that I chatted with and I wish she was still here because  
26 we could have a nice repose and sally. I asked her about furthering medical  
27 technology, do you think it's OK to maintain the status quo? And she said,  
28 well of course not, well the isotopes that FFTF makes tends to be the  
29 therapeutic esoteric isotopes like phosphorous-32 it is used for prostate  
30 cancer and copper-67 that is used for lung cancer and samarium-153 and things  
31 like that they are used for pilation of bone cancer. These isotopes cannot be  
32 obtained in large quantities because they are accelerators only. So despite  
33 the fact that I'm antiweapons, antiwar, I'm pro FFTF. Now one other thing the  
34 FFTF is gonna do, it's gonna burn Pu-239. Somebody came up here and said, ah,  
35 burn Pu-239 it's still gonna be Pu-239. You produce Pu-240. Can you make a  
36 device out of Pu-239? Can you make a good device out of Pu-239? A dumb guy  
37 probably can't. Can he make something that makes a hell of a mess? You bet,  
38 no question. Can he do this if it's got a lot of Pu-240? No, it becomes wet  
39 powder. It just won't go boom. Not even the guys at Los Alamos can take the  
40 stuff that coming out of FFTF after it's burned and turn it into a bomb, they  
41 can't do it with elemental chemistry and that effectively dries the powder.  
42 They can't do it.

43  
44 Pat Serie:

45 Mr. Talbert, you need to finish, please.

46  
47 Bob Talbert:

48 OK. I'm done.

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1 Pat Serie:

2 Thank you. OK. Mary Hanson. Then we have Alexandra Pye, Warren Jones, and  
3 Anci Koppel.

4  
5 Mary Hanson:

6 Thanks for hanging in here. I kind of wondered how is it, you know, that we  
7 can listen so long and for years. I've watched us get old and I've watched  
8 myself get old, fighting nukes in Washington state. You know, when I came  
9 here in 1982, I never dreamed of the profoundly serious nature of what was  
10 going on in this state. It really, really affected me. Trident, the ability  
11 to blow up the whole world is in such denial in this state, and then Hanford.  
12 We are not wise enough to play around with this stuff, folks. We never have  
13 been. Human beings are too fallible. This is not human material. I'm  
14 serious. The only thing that keeps me here is that I feel a profound  
15 responsibility as a human being to do what I can to stop activity that even I  
16 personally do not feel I could handle as a responsibility. It's got to be  
17 stopped. We are not wise enough for this human race to play with this stuff.  
18 That's the reality of it. And FFTF is playing games. The only important  
19 thing that I see is the need to respect the life of all humans who are  
20 involved in the cleanup process, to respect a life of all animals and humans  
21 that could be hurt by an accident or could be hurt by having to live with the  
22 environmental effects of catastrophic accident or other radioactive pollution  
23 of a real bad incident at Hanford or the ongoing pollution of Hanford. But  
24 what's really scaring me is that the world is kind of going out of control.  
25 And I think anything that feeds into that process of kind of going out of  
26 control is wrong and bad just because we are not equal to it. We have more  
27 important fish to fry. We've got an environment to save. We have a Soviet  
28 Union that did not quit existing in 1989. It did not cease to exist, it began  
29 a process of falling apart, of going into very high levels of chaos when it  
30 too had what we have. When it too had control over processes, materials, and  
31 so forth of a very high destructive capability. So, I feel overwhelmed by the  
32 nature of the nuclear situation in the world. And I feel a great sense of  
33 urgency to continue the process of getting rid of nuclear everything. And  
34 basically putting it in mothballs or whatever you want to call it. Cleaning  
35 it up at Hanford is essential. Getting that cleanup going quickly because we  
36 have more important things that we have to do if we're going to have an earth  
37 at all. We gotta problem, folks. We gotta wake up, we gotta get moving, not  
38 take all the time in the world. Get the cleanup moving and finished and get  
39 on with a whole slew of worldwide pollution that is due to unwise human  
40 decision that has been made basically during my lifetime of 52 years. Let's  
41 go.

42  
43 Pat Serie:

44 Alexandra Pye. Thank you, Ms. Hanson. Ms. Pye. Nope. Warren Jones. Nope.  
45 Anci Koppel. OK. Rebecca Bauen. There comes Rebecca. Then on deck, we're  
46 going to have Dean Cooper, Harry Wall, and Carol Woods, please. Please be  
47 ready.  
48

002308

1 Rebecca Bauen:

2 My name is Rebecca Bauen. I'm here to speak against the restarting of the  
3 FTF. I was born in Pendleton, Oregon, across the river from Hanford, in  
4 1961. My family had lived there for five years previously and moved to Salem  
5 shortly after I was born. I've just returned from my mother's funeral in  
6 Oregon. She died from a brain tumor that had slowly grown over the years.  
7 The doctor said it was undetected cancer from surgery that took most of her  
8 colon two years after we moved from Pendleton. But that's only the beginning.  
9 My oldest sister died of breast cancer last summer. The following month, my  
10 next older sister was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. In 1990, my father had a  
11 cancer surgery and then my brother had a cancerous kidney removed when he was  
12 30. I'm the only member of my family free from cancer. I no longer wonder  
13 if--just when. So look me in the eye when you say that one of the outcomes of  
14 reviving nuclear production near Hanford is to prevent cancer. Look me in the  
15 eye when you say that weapons production, job creation, and medical research  
16 justify the unintended consequences. More cancer has been caused than  
17 prevented by nuclear production at Hanford. More jobs can be created by  
18 cleanup. Let's talk straight and acknowledge the private economic benefit  
19 going to the shareholders of technological research firms. Let's right here  
20 acknowledge that the purpose of this debate is to sidestep the enormous  
21 challenge of cleaning up the mess that's been created at Hanford. More jobs  
22 will be created, more human creativity will be required, and more political  
23 will is necessary to clean it up. Think of my family as if it were yours when  
24 it's time to make the decision.

25  
26 Pat Serie:

27 Thank you, do we have Dean Cooper? Thank you, Ms. Bauen. Mr. Cooper. How  
28 about Harry Wall? After Mr. Wall, we will have Carol Woods, Robert Stagman,  
29 and Margaret Bartley, please.

30  
31 Harry Wall:

32 A little change of pace, folks. How many of you know the color of the skin of  
33 a polar bear? Black, it's black. What's unique about the hair of a polar  
34 bear; it's hollow. Right, and much like fiberoptic, it transfers the sun's  
35 energy to the polar bear's black skin to keep it warm. The highly efficient  
36 heat transfer process occurring between the hair and the skin has not yet been  
37 duplicated. What is unique about tritium? It increases the power of a  
38 nuclear explosion. Why do we need tritium? I don't think we do. What will  
39 happen if we just say no to tritium? Our nuclear weapons will lose some of  
40 their punch. The explosion will only kill every living creature within  
41 20 miles instead of spreading the kill distance out to 25 or 30 miles. The  
42 hole in the ground will be only ten miles in diameter and five miles deep  
43 instead of 15 miles in diameter and seven miles deep. Now these numbers are  
44 assumed because the after effects of exploding our nuclear weapons is  
45 classified information. However, in the 1962 operations Sudan Test, a  
46 104 kiloton nuclear device created a crater 1,280 feet in diameter and  
47 320 feet deep. With the seismic energy equivalent to 4.75 on the Richter  
48 scale. Knowing the weapons size and the effect of the tritium, we could  
49 refine these assumptions. Again, the only purpose of tritium is to increase  
50 the yield of nuclear weapons. And was only mentioned once in the article in

1 last Sunday's Seattle Times. The author assumed, as it seems a lot of the  
2 general public does, that we need tritium and I say we don't. Let's just say  
3 no to tritium. Our weapons will still be able to blow a very big hole in the  
4 ground. And our negotiators could easily adjust the downsizing of our nuclear  
5 arsenal to maintain the balance of power desired to offset that of our enemy,  
6 whoever our enemy is. Allowing our tritium to deteriorate to zero could be a  
7 very positive step in reducing world tension. In addition, we would not be  
8 producing more nuclear waste at Hanford or any place else. I urge you to just  
9 say no to tritium at Hanford or anywhere else.

10  
11 Pat Serie:

12 Thank you, Mr Wall. Carol Woods, is Carol Woods here? Carol Woods. What  
13 about Robert Stagman? Yes, sir. After Mr. Stagman, we will have  
14 Margaret Bartley, Keith Smith, and Gary Troyer, please. I'm sorry,  
15 Mr. Stagman is number 64.

16  
17 Robert Stagman:

18 Thank you for the opportunity to address this meeting. My name is  
19 Dr. Bob Stagman and I'm a head and neck surgeon and currently I am Chief of  
20 Department of Head and Neck Surgery for Group Health Cooperative. We have  
21 responsibility for some 675,000 people. Significant percentage of the work  
22 that I do is in the treatment of head and neck tumors, many of them  
23 malignancies. And exposure to radiation is a known factor in the creation of  
24 head and neck tumors, especially thyroid cancers, and I feel very close to  
25 this issue as I personally have been treated for a radiation-induced thyroid  
26 tumor. The entire Hanford complex is an environmental and public health  
27 catastrophe. Radiation leaking from the storage tanks already in the  
28 groundwater headed for the Columbia. With the storage technology clearly  
29 defective and most likely all the tanks already leaking, the so-called safe  
30 levels of radiation exposure remain unknown. But it is most likely that they  
31 are substantially lower than we think they are and we have adequate precedence  
32 for this and many other areas including fetal alcohol, second hand smoke, and  
33 a number of other things where we are finding out that we need much less of it  
34 than we think we need to produce tumors. Cleanup level to a presumed level of  
35 safety is extremely problematic and I think we are all kidding ourselves, it  
36 is probably impossible. So what we are going to do is just to consider how  
37 much of this radiation exposure our citizenry can tolerate before their immune  
38 systems break down. So assurances from DOE at Hanford radiation presents no  
39 current public health risks is absurd. Citizens of Washington and Oregon who  
40 are in the Hanford drainage have every reason to be alarmed, if not terrified,  
41 by the adverse health implications of gross environmental contamination. In  
42 the face of internal delays, cost overruns, and underbudgeting for the cleanup  
43 of this ecological nightmare, advocacy for restart of FFTF is insane and  
44 unconscionable. The added burden of vast new quantities of nuclear waste  
45 which is much more dangerous than anything we have ever dealt with before.  
46 Critical cleanup dollars are clearly being diverted from cleanup to the FFT  
47 standby. The rationale of medical isotope production is flawed unless you  
48 want to assume we're going to produce these isotopes in order to try and treat  
49 the cancers that we cause with the extra radiation. That's a good rationale.  
50 And the vulnerability to severe accidents is unavoidable. The only thing we

002311

1 should be doing with the TPA milestones is that they should reflect the urgent  
2 need to shut down the FFT as rapidly as possible. Plans to restart FFTF  
3 should be scrapped immediately. It's time for Hanford to get out of the  
4 business of poisoning our environment and get down to clean up and shut down.  
5

6 Pat Serie:

7 Thank you, Dr. Stagman. Margaret Bartley. Margaret Bartley, number 65. Is  
8 Margaret Bartley still here? How about Keith Smith? OK. After Mr. Smith,  
9 we'll have Gary Troyer, Derek Jones, and Dan Johnston, please.  
10

11 Keith Smith:

12 My name is Keith Smith. I represent myself and the Hanford Atomic Metal  
13 Trades Council, a consortium of 15 unions and the Tri-Cities area. I  
14 sympathize with the people that are grandparents, but I think I got, everybody  
15 here talked about havin' six or seven grandchildren. I have 30 and I'm only  
16 57. So I think I've done pretty well. And I'm concerned about the issues  
17 that you are, but from an entirely practical standpoint, most of what has been  
18 said here tonight has been irresponsible rhetoric. Fast Flux Test Facility is  
19 a national asset and a jewel of technology. It is a sophisticated and  
20 marvelous machine that has capability beyond anything else in the world today.  
21 Now, I understand that we may not need a lot of tritium in the future. But we  
22 have to be ready to make it if we do need it and this gentleman down here on  
23 the end is only explained the technical aspect and legal aspect of why the TPA  
24 needs to be modified. It needs to be modified because it can't be, we can't  
25 reach those milestones under the current situation.  
26

27 Now there may be a legal question about whether the Secretary had a right to  
28 make the decision she made or not. But I do want to tell you this, I know the  
29 former Secretary O'Leary and she was not the kind of person who would make  
30 decisions irresponsibly. She was a gracious, compassionate, and lovely person  
31 and still is. She made that decision based on the best technical information  
32 that she had at the time. It may be a better decision to be made in the  
33 future and I will certainly support that decision if that's the truth. But if  
34 we do have to make tritium, then we should make it at FFTF.  
35

36 And now that there will be an alternative source of medical and research  
37 isotopes than the reactor, the facility that was proposed before that would do  
38 that kind of work, they've decided not to build it. FFTF is the next best  
39 option. It can be used to make specially tailored isotopes that cannot be  
40 made anywhere else and in quantities that are not possible anywhere else. And  
41 the allegation that we're creating a lot of cancers from Hanford is just not  
42 supported by medical and scientific evidence. There have been a lot of  
43 epidemiologic studies made, I've been part of it. I grew up around there. I  
44 have relatives that didn't grow up anywhere around Hanford that got cancer ...  
45

46 Pat Serie:

47 One minute, please, Mr. Smith.  
48  
49

002312

002312

1 Keith Smith:

2 Thank you, ma'am, a long ways from Hanford or any other nuclear facility that  
3 got cancer. My grandfather was a farmer. He contracted larynx cancer. Guess  
4 how they cured it, with a radioactive isotope. He was 72 when he contracted  
5 cancer. He died at the age of 102. I think that they consider that total  
6 remission. I know there's some concern for the use of the FFTF for the  
7 production of tritium and some who call us the bomb factory say it would tear  
8 up the Tri-Party Agreement. I disagree with that. I think that we would  
9 rejuvenate the Tri-Party Agreement by reestablishing milestones that are more  
10 realistic. Now I'm gonna read to you the unions that are involved and there  
11 are thousands of members in the Tri-Cities. I'm going to read to you those  
12 for the record.  
13

14 Pat Serie:

15 Very quickly, please.  
16

17 Keith Smith:

18 Yes, ma'am. Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council, Iron Workers Local 14, Fire  
19 Fighters Local I-24, Sheet Metal Worker Local 66, IBW Local 77, Heat and Frost  
20 Insulator Local 120, Boilermaker Local 242, International Union of Operating  
21 Engineers Local 280, All Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1369, Pipe Fitter  
22 Local 598, Teamsters Local 839, IBW Local 984, Painters Local 7889,  
23 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 1951, and  
24 Carpenters and Millwright Local 2403. Please support the operation of this  
25 fine national treasure.  
26

002312

27 Pat Serie:

28 Thank you, Mr. Smith. Gary Troyer. After Mr. Troyer, we'll have Derek Jones,  
29 Dan Johnston, and Teresa Mix, please.  
30

31 Gary Troyer:

32 Thank you. My purpose for this statement is to support the use of the Fast  
33 Flux Test Facility for the production of medical isotopes and to give my  
34 reasons for removal of the facility from the umbrella of the Tri-Party  
35 Agreement. There are several interrelated aspects to this topical area that  
36 critics have embroiled with nonfactional perceptions and faulty reasoning. I  
37 shall address several of these issues such as safety, nuclear materials,  
38 Hanford Site cleanup, and stewardship of the public trust, in my view. The  
39 FFTF was built with taxpayer monies for the primary purpose of testing safety  
40 aspects of systems and materials for plutonium burning reactors. The expert  
41 designers are to be commended for this. Other nations have recognized its  
42 utility and explored ways of participating in its use. Some of those same  
43 designers are now proposing a continuance of the use of a mission that can be  
44 even more directly felt by the citizens: the production of medical isotopes.  
45

002313

46 Medical isotopes are potential silver bullets in the diagnosis and treatment  
47 of osteoporosis and cancer respectively. We're already seeing certain medical  
48 research such as breast cancer halted for lack of such isotopes. My wife and  
49 I have five grandchildren that continue to get hugs from their grandmother.  
50 She is a direct benefactor of nuclear medicine. In fact 1/3 of all hospital

1 patients are affected by nuclear technology. As a scientist, I can see no  
2 reason why we won't have a continued advances in nuclear medicine except for  
3 one big, if the isotopes are available. It is a distressing fact that 9% of  
4 women will face some form of breast cancer with a large number terminal.  
5 Nuclear medicine is a significant tool in this arena.  
6

7 As a potential production facility, FFTF is not logically in the category for  
8 cleanup under the TPA. Its current holding status by the federal government  
9 effectively stymies any milestones in the TPA. Therefore, its current status  
10 sets up the TPA for failure. Arguments against removal falsely promote that  
11 monies would be diverted from cleanup to production. On the contrary, it  
12 would free up monies for cleanup effort because the milestones simply are not  
13 required. Concept of bridging to the medical isotope mission brings monies  
14 from the defense establishment savings by avoidance of building a new  
15 facility. It has been estimated that the building effort would cost only  
16 1/10th of the money annually versus the fast track alternative approach.  
17

18 Pat Serie:

19 One minute, please, Mr. Troyer.  
20

21 Gary Troyer:

22 Thank you. The FFTF has had a longstanding record of safe and clean  
23 operations. Its cooling system is closed looped. No external river waters  
24 warmed or any steam remitted. No greenhouse gases are generated. Compare  
25 that to the plume coming from our southern neighbor with Boardman coal-fired  
26 electric plant. And don't forget, coal plants emit directly measurable  
27 radioactivity every minute of operation sufficient to set off alarms in  
28 downwind nuclear plants. As a further antidote on safety, and the concerns  
29 espoused by critics, I have personally observed the leader of Heart of America  
30 covering up the only available fire extinguisher in a public meeting room with  
31 an erroneous propaganda poster. Perhaps one protests too much. I have other  
32 comments here that are in the record that I have already submitted. For these  
33 reasons, I fully support the removal of the FFTF from the TPA umbrella and  
34 encourage the use of the FFTF for the betterment of our citizens. Thank you.  
35

36 Pat Serie:

37 Thank you, Mr. Troyer. Derek Jones. After Mr. Jones, we will have  
38 Dan Johnston, Teresa Mix, and Mike Finn, please.  
39

40 Derek Jones:

41 I represent approximately 800 people that have boldly come forward as friends  
42 of FFTF to support the change to the Tri-Party Agreement milestones and who  
43 favor restart of FFTF. Please put your sign down. These people know FFTF is  
44 a very safe reactor. They live in the shadow of this reactor and they don't  
45 fear it, why? Because they understand radiation concepts. They understand  
46 that FFTF is the safest reactor ever built. We have operated that reactor,  
47 meeting many safety and capacity factor standards that would be applied to an  
48 NRC-licensed reactor. Hanford never was the bomb factory. That is situated  
49 in Texas, thank you very much. We did not have a voice in Portland and we do  
50 not have a voice here tonight. Many of these people worked that day to help

002313

002314



1 clean up the Hanford Site. Many of those same people work today. But they  
2 won't be working two years from now. What's wrong with building a viable  
3 industries in the Tri-Cities? Nothing. FFTF and the adjacent FMEF facilities  
4 were designed to perform the tasks that are needed by your government and  
5 thousands of cancer victims today. Not in the past, OK, but today. This is  
6 new technology, high tech jobs. Where are those high tech jobs gonna come  
7 from? I've asked numerous people here today and if they say cleanup, they're  
8 a liar. Four hundred more people will be laid off this year. Home values in  
9 the Tri-Cities are dropping. People will be forced to move. There will be  
10 rolling brown-outs eventually in Seattle, but then it will be too late. You  
11 would have destroyed the dams, destroyed the reactors. Winter wheat, apples,  
12 and grapes grown in the hills surrounding Hanford provide food for both you  
13 and me. People who live in Seattle seem to have no trouble spending tax  
14 dollars collected in the Tri-Cities for their beautiful new coliseum or your  
15 bay area rapid transit system. Deer, elk, and rabbits on the Hanford Site  
16 flourish on the protected lands. Hanford is a unique arid lands ecology. The  
17 Tri-Cities is not desolate as the Seattle Times has indicated. You have a  
18 very lush and beautiful area if you know how to recognize the beauty. Quit  
19 laughing, you idiots. If you truly cherish clean air and water, you'd move to  
20 the Tri-Cities when you retire. There are fewer cars to do environmental  
21 damage, there are fewer factories. Natural gas, wind power, or solar cells  
22 will create more heavy metal waste, do more soil damage to create more air and  
23 water pollution than FFTF has or could if it were to operate 20 more years.  
24 Thirty-four medical isotopes can be produced at FFTF. Since the opposition  
25 started trying to delay FFTF restart, four people have died from cancers that  
26 could be treatable with medical isotopes from FFTF.

27  
28 Pat Serie:

29 One minute, Mr. Jones, please.

30  
31 Derek Jones:

002314

32 Thank you. For the opposition to say that a market will not develop is simply  
33 a lie because they know if they can suppress information long enough and  
34 suppress the supply, they can fulfill their prophecy and the market never will  
35 develop. Millions are safer because the cold war is over. I put my life on  
36 the line to help win that conflict, now I regret doing so. America does not  
37 deserve the freedom that your ancestors gave you because you are a bunch of  
38 sheep being led by men like Mr. Pollet and Mr. Carpenter back into the dark  
39 ages.

40  
41 Pat Serie:

42 You need to finish up, please, Mr. Jones.

43  
44 Derek Jones:

002314

45 We who have worked at FFTF are heavily censored. I probably won't have a job  
46 to go back to tomorrow. But at the time the people who created the successes  
47 of FFTF were censored also, so our opponents are basing their opinions on and  
48 I will give them the benefit of the doubt advocated, inaccurate, or biased  
49 information. The major environmental impact from FFTF occurred only when we  
50 dug holes in the desert and built the plant. If you are truly concerned about

1 the environment you will support deleting FFTF milestones from the Tri-Party  
2 Agreement. If you review the information I have provided maybe you'd be  
3 educated.  
4

5 Pat Serie:

6 OK. We now have Dan Johnston, Teresa Mix, and Mike Finn, please.  
7

8 Dan Johnston:

9 I'm Dan Johnston and I work at the FFTF. Mr. Hughes, Mr. Yerxa, Mr. Stanley,  
10 and Mr. Wilson, from what I've heard tonight you've had quite a job cut out  
11 for you trying to educate people to all the facts. I've heard a lot of people  
12 talk about coverup, but I find it hard to justify the argument of coverup when  
13 we're in a public hearing and we can share our views and share our facts. I  
14 could say there's a coverup because I have heard a lot of what I believe are  
15 one-sided arguments. They don't get the whole story. I'm proud of the FFTF's  
16 record of accomplishments and the high standard of excellence and it's proven  
17 that it is possible. FFTF staff has received awards for every phase of the  
18 FFTF development, its design, its construction, its operation, its  
19 maintainability, and its fuel offload. This facility has proved to be safe,  
20 it's clean, and it's reliable into much higher standards than any other  
21 reactor in the U.S. ...  
22

23 END OF TAPE  
24

25 Dan Johnston:

26 ... to which built the FFTF. Which reminds me of the piece of graffiti that  
27 was written on the side of the FFTF containment shell by a construction  
28 worker. "Don't begin vast projects with half assed ideas." Obviously the  
29 FFTF is not the result of half-applied, half-assed ideas. But it stands as a  
30 proven performer to the highest standards, truly a world-class act. FFTF  
31 stands ready to apply its energy and its excellence to the next phase of its  
32 existence: a new dream, medical isotopes. We are a people who have earned  
33 the highest standard of living that is the envy of the world. We reached this  
34 stage by being frugal people, by being accountable to each other, and  
35 expecting the same fidelity and accountability from our government. In this  
36 respect, I expect the government to get the maximum value from its  
37 investments, not throw away relatively new equipment and systems. The FFTF  
38 has seen ten years of the irradiation service, which means it has 30 years of  
39 irradiation service remaining.  
40

41 Pat Serie:

42 One minutes, please, Mr. Johnston.  
43

44 Dan Johnston:

45 Thank you. I believe the best use of this facility is as a part of the  
46 medical isotope development production and treatment program. In this way we  
47 can continue to strive for the high quality of life, perhaps longer lives for  
48 all Americans. I believe we share the dream of having long and healthy lives.  
49 We've learned long and healthy lives take responsible actions on our part if  
50 it's to be. It is evident in our choices and expectations. We favor

1 sophisticated technologies to increase the quality of our medical care and to  
2 enhance the medicine our doctors have available to treat our ills. Therefore,  
3 I believe it's appropriate to remove the cleanup requirements for the FFTF in  
4 the current Tri-Party Agreement to a time that's appropriate for the facility  
5 at the end of its lifetime, after the dream of medical isotopes has been  
6 fulfilled. Thank you.  
7

8 Pat Serie:

9 Thank you, Mr. Johnston. Teresa Mix, then we'll have Mike Finn,  
10 Peter Hennemann, James Waters, please.  
11

12 Teresa Mix:

13 Good evening. My name is Teresa Mix and I'm an Occupational, Safety, and  
14 Health Educational Coordinator for the Oil Chemical and Atomic Worker's  
15 International Union. I'm also a laboratory technologist at the Hanford Site  
16 and I'm a member of the OCAW 1369 which is a 2,500 member union in the State  
17 of Washington. It is my understanding that this forum tonight, or a circus  
18 that many have turned it into, is to take public comment on the proposed  
19 changes to the Tri-Party Agreement, not to debate whether the DOE and the  
20 United States government should utilize a state-of-the-art multi-million  
21 dollar facility that has already been bought and paid for with our taxes. To  
22 that point, I support the decision to remove FFTF from the Tri-Party  
23 Agreement. Thank you.  
24

25 Pat Serie:

26 Thank you, Ms. Mix. Mike Finn. Nope. Peter Hennemann, 72; James Waters, 76;  
27 Mike Walter.  
28

29 Mike Walter:

30 What a beautiful term circus, because that's what I observed tonight. And  
31 congratulations, Gerald, you ran a wonderful circus. My main question is  
32 this: Have we, as Washington state, Oregonians, and Idahoans, and political  
33 people, DOE, Heart of America, and everybody, have we projected, what the full  
34 economic impact to Washington state and the other states I've mentioned would  
35 be from the loss of the FFTF's medical isotope program and to include, which  
36 is to include all the technical spinoffs, which, if I'm not mistaken would be  
37 a mind boggling number? And I hope we think about that tonight. That's one  
38 big question that's been on my heart for years. Ever since I've been working  
39 out on the site, proudly, happily, and very safely, and I felt very safe out  
40 there for almost eight years now. That's been a question on my mind for the  
41 past eight years. Have we projected what the losses would be of how I  
42 mentioned it? Also, Heart of America, is its position so weak that the  
43 majority of the people have left already. And even Tom has left. I want to  
44 thank our people for staying. Where's your people? And where's the media?  
45 Thank you.  
46

47 Pat Serie:

48 Ronald Gouge, Jesse Perez, and Barbara Zepeda. Mr. Gouge, thank you.  
49  
50

002316

002317

Ronald Gouge:

I had some prepared comments, but after hearing everything here that's gone on tonight, I think I'll leave them in the envelope on the chair back there and just speak from the heart tonight. I'm a former Hanford worker, I spent 29 years at Hanford. The last 14 years I was a nuclear operator out in the 200 East areas working at the processing plant at PUREX, and over at B-Plant down the road a ways. Back in the 70s I was involved in the documentation of the construction of the FFTF and it's obvious from what I've heard here tonight that there is a whole lot of people that don't understand the terminology closed-loop cooling system. Comments to the effect that it's going to further pollute the groundwater, the aquifers, the river, and all that, don't float if you understand the technology there. I don't really understand the technology, but I do understand closed-loop, and it doesn't mean you put that back in the ground, it means it stays in the closed loop.

I also understand that I've spent the last 14 years working hands-on with plutonium. And the gentleman that was up here earlier, unfortunately he left, that he was antiwar, antibomb, and everything else. He had a lot more technology background than I did on the information of plutonium. But I do know that when I was handling plutonium powder, it was not my concern as to whether or not it was going to blow up on me or not, it was my concern of how it was going to be used down the road. I don't like that any better than anybody else does in this room, but I don't think anyone attached to this likes what's there, it is a fact that it is there. One other comment, you folks are worried about the fact that they are taking money from cleanup to have FFTF on standby. What is going to happen if the government goes ahead with the FFTF. 1) the government's made up their mind that they are going to do tritium, that isn't what we are here about tonight. We're here tonight about the milestones, whether or not we should go ahead with holding them as milestones until they decide whether or not to use FFTF.

Pat Serie:

One minute, please, Mr. Gouge.

Ronald Gouge:

If they use FFTF they are talking 500 million dollars to get it operating, the cost of running it. If they don't use FFTF they're talking from eight to 16 billion dollars to build the accelerator in Savannah River. If they use eight to 16 billion dollars in Savannah River, what do you think that's going to do to your cleanup funds? Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Gouge. Jesse Perez, then we have Barbara Zepeda, Grant McCalmant, and Jim McGrath. Barbara, I'm sorry. It is Jesse and then you're next.

Jesse Perez:

Hello. My name is Jesse Perez and I'm a nuclear chemical operator for the Oil Chemical Atomic Workers Local 1369 Richland. I'm here to let you know that the Oil Chemical Atomic Workers support the position that would delete the

1 cleanup milestone for the Fast Flux Test Facility at Hanford. Effects of this  
2 would be to postpone the milestone from the Tri-Party Agreement until the  
3 Department of Energy makes the decision to utilize FFTF. Basically, the  
4 reactor could also be used for future production of medical isotopes which  
5 could help defer much of the cost of operating the facility. This could free  
6 up more money that could be used to clean up the Hanford Site, which most  
7 everybody supports here and everywhere else. The cleanup mission at Hanford  
8 could actually be jeopardized or cut back if FFTF is not used for medical  
9 isotopes production, because there would be tritium production somewhere else  
10 as a matter of national policy as stated. The additional funding requirements  
11 of any tritium option will come from DOE's environmental budget. The budget  
12 is far from adequate to meet this present cleanup program commitment. Hanford  
13 presently receives approximately 25% of DOE's environmental budgets. The  
14 intentions of the new acceleration program could have a devastating impact on  
15 the cleanup program at Hanford. OCAW thinks it makes good sense to take time  
16 and look at all titanium options including FFTF, by doing this all parties can  
17 have a public debate of the pros and cons of all aspects of this issue and  
18 make a sound final decision. If the decision is made not to use FFTF for  
19 titanium or isotope production, the reactor could be put back on a same time  
20 line for their cleanup milestones. Thank you.

21  
22 Pat Serie:

23 Thank you, Mr. Perez. Barbara, who is number 79 by the way.

24  
25 Barbara Zepeda:

26 I'm Barbara Zepeda and I've been coming to these for so long I thought that  
27 maybe people would know name by name. But anyway, I want to express my  
28 concern for workers in this country, because in this country we have one  
29 person gettin' 20 people gettin' killed on the job every day, and it's due to  
30 the fact that we have this philosophy that we can only spend money lavishly on  
31 defense projects. We can't keep contracts with people to make life better for  
32 the workers and better for people who live in this society. That we do  
33 protect corporations. Do not restart FFTF, maintain the milestones agreed to  
34 in the Tri-Party Agreement. Seven billion dollars in standard costs on the  
35 back of our public utility districts is enough of a nuclear waste legacy for  
36 this state. That's the 500 million a year that we pay in our electric bills  
37 right now to carry that on. It's about time that government itself hold  
38 itself to the rule of law. The TPA is a contract that the State of Washington  
39 made with the United States government to clean up the most contaminated  
40 nuclear facilities in the U.S., if not the world. I have asked Hanford  
41 officials at every meeting I have attended in the last 20 years, it's really  
42 been more than that on the nuclear issue, to give an objective analysis of the  
43 waste cleanup by the International Atomic Energy Agency or some such agency  
44 that is not making money by making mistakes. They've profited, the  
45 corporations there have profited, from actually not being honest and not  
46 revealing the facts until it's made the mess. And the mess isn't just the  
47 tritium, but the fact that they're not going to clean up the other sites that  
48 the water is contaminating the Columbia River and that river is furnishing,  
the agriculture products through irrigation that we will lose if it becomes  
too contaminated. This FFT proposal exhibits the contempt for the citizens

002320

1 that assures that less than 50% will vote. Right now, such low voter turnout  
2 is considered, even civil war zones such as Yugoslavia, evidence that  
3 government is illegitimate. As a Richland resident in the 1940s and '50s, I  
4 am sorry to say from even my pro nuclear friends and relatives that  
5 Homer Simpson was running Hanford. I'll say that because Russ Knight was the  
6 only supervisor that my mother worked for that tried to enforce safety laws.  
7 And he was demoted and always threatened to lose his job. And the workers, I  
8 mean I respect the workers that came here tonight and talked to us, but I had  
9 to listen to my mother, every night she worked at the lowest level of  
10 decontamination lab and she died of pancreas. Nobody in our family,  
11 pancreatic cancer. Nobody in our family has ever had cancer, but she worked  
12 at a lab where she decontaminated the equipment that had to be cleaned up.

13  
14 Pat Serie:

15 Can you finish up, please, Barbara?

16  
17 Barbara Zepeda:

18 All I want to say is that I think we all want to live in a society that  
19 respects its workers, but we don't do that by building bombs and not keeping  
20 contracts that the government has made that are long overdue.

002320

21  
22 Pat Serie:

23 Thank you. Grant McCalmant, we're going to have Jim McGrath, Rosemary Brodie,  
24 and Charlie McAteer.

25  
26 Grant McCalmant:

27 My name is Grant McCalmant and I work at 222-S labs at the Hanford Site. I  
28 work in the hazardous waste group, take care of all the waste we generate in  
29 our building from analyzin'. Our facility analyzes the tanks. You guys said  
30 that, somebody made a comment earlier that, we didn't know what was in them  
31 tanks. We've analyzed almost, most those tanks now. We know what's in them,  
32 we know what levels are in there. We've done a lot of milestones toward  
33 cleanup out there. But the problem is the environmentalists created part of  
34 the problem at Hanford. It's a loop, we had the N Reactor generatin' fuel  
35 rods for weapons-grade, we had the PUREX facility which processed them, and  
36 then we had to, you know, the circle of process facilities. We shut down  
37 PUREX, kept generatin' fuel rods, now we have K-Basin, one of the biggest  
38 cleanup sites because we have all these fuel rods and no way to process them.  
39 We need to use our best technology on makin' our decisions. We need to look  
40 at all the facts and not jump to conclusions. We thought PUREX was unsafe, so  
41 we shut it down instead of running maybe it at a slower speed and process the  
42 fuel rods we created a worst problem, because we do knee-jerk reactions. We  
43 need to look at all the facts and true facts. Mr. Carpenter had a fact about  
44 one of the Secretary of Energy's against FFTF. Did the whole fact that  
45 quotes, the don't put the whole quote there. Part of that quote was he wanted  
46 to build the facility at Savannah River. You know, you got to look at the  
47 whole facts, not just these half quotes that we keep getting. We need to use  
48 the best psychology and I think we should set aside the milestones to look at  
49 it, see if it's needed. If the Department of Defense decides we need tritium,  
50 I think FFTF is a great place do it. The radioisotopes are needed. My father

002321

has prostate cancer right now, going to the VA. The VA will not do the isotope because of the cost. So they are going to try to do surgery on a 70-year old man. But that's part of the politics again. They wouldn't do it in Walla Walla, they're transferring. We got to take the politics out of this and do the best scientific decisions. Look at all the facts. I hope DOE does that and takes the politics out of this. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

I would like to share the unfortunate news that we have 52 people left signed up and it's 11:12. The Seattle Center would love to have us out of here by midnight, we'll see what we can do about that. But let's move on with Jim McGrath, then Rosemary Brodie, Charlie McAteer, and Milo Fryling, please. Jim McGrath, gone. Rosemary Brodie, she left, she spoke. Thank you. Charlie McAteer, nope. Milo Fryling, Mr. Fryling. After Mr. Fryling, we have Sidney Stock, Nancy Malmgren, and Lisa Cabana, please.

Milo Fryling:

All right. I have a Master's degree in Physics and currently enjoying a successful software engineering career. Ten years ago I deferred this training in order to participate in first the great peace march across the U.S. and I was on a third of that, and then I walked from Spokane to Blaine through about a thousand miles of Washington to protest for global nuclear disarmament and talked with a lot of people. Included in that trip was ... we went through Tri-Cities and met a lot of people there. The host that greeted us in Tri-Cities' first comment kind of startled me, said, so, do we glow! And I've ever since wished that I wasn't so startled to respond that until I see you in the dark, I don't know. And that to me sort of characterized the kind of assumptions that people make, depending on where they are, so I would like to just see our decisions about what we do to be based on science. I'd also like to comment that I'm, like most of the Seattle audience here, against the use of the FFTF. But what I see a lot of that I'm really sorry about for you who have traveled such long distance is the kind of factious self-satisfaction that we have the entire truth. Because if all these people that work on the Hanford Site were to all go away, we would be in deep trouble. In order to move forward to a solution that is really going to be for everyone's best interest, we need everything, everyone to work together and by not respecting each other, that gets in the way of that. And then my only other comment is: from my understanding of the dynamics of the Tri-Party Agreement, it looks like the Department of Ecology is kind of the voice for people who feel as I do and I just like to urge you, I think you see here how much public support there is among those who are not, don't have a vested interest or job with the Hanford facility. And I'd like to urge you to fight for our position and to know that you have public support and if some other agency of government is going to try and unilaterally abrogate this contract then, you know, fight while you can in that system and let the public know so that we can organize with them. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Fryling. Sidney Stock. Then we will have Nancy Malmgren, Lisa Cabana, and Shirley Morrison, please.

002323

1 Sidney Stock:

2 I'm Sidney Stock. And in 1992 I traveled around the Hanford Reservation with  
3 a group of PSR people and as we started our trip, I asked the Westinghouse  
4 person who was our guide in light of the history of lying and deception and  
5 hundreds of experiments on people who didn't know they were being experimented  
6 upon, the deception and lying by government and contractors. What reason do  
7 we have to believe that what we're about to hear is going to be different than  
8 what's gone on in the past? He proceeded not to deny any of that, because  
9 nobody can deny the history, but to reassure me that it was going to be  
10 different. And so we went around in this pretty amazing facility and I felt  
11 reassured because I'm not real smart about these things. When we got back to  
12 the hotel, we had a meeting and the Department of Ecology person who had been  
13 on the tour spoke and he refuted all kinds of things that had been said on our  
14 tour. And so I asked the people that I was with, the other PSR members, why  
15 didn't he say something while the tour was going on? And their response was,  
16 well Department of Ecology gets a lot of funding from Department of Energy and  
17 so, I don't know if that's the truth, but there had to be some peculiar reason  
18 why this person who felt like we were being seriously, badly misled, a  
19 continuation of prior behavior, would be quiet. And as I said, I don't know a  
20 lot about this. I do have some general principles that I'm guided by. I'm  
21 very impressed by people who are whistleblowers who risk not only their  
22 occupations, but their lives, to bring out the truth. I know that people in  
23 need of jobs can be conformists and can be very, very blind. The worst kind  
24 of atrocities from the Holocaust, to many other examples, and so I tend to  
25 believe that we have no good reason to think that the government is being any  
26 more honest now that it absolutely has to be which is always the way it's  
27 behaved. We know that the contractors, the most recent example of an accident  
28 over there that they covered up and that they exposed their workers to  
29 unnecessary danger to make things look as good as possible for them as  
30 contractors. And so when I look at how the world works, I'd much rather in my  
31 ignorance, have the people who are devoting their lives to challenging the  
32 government and challenging the contractors and I don't want any more nuclear  
33 waste and I know to the best of my knowledge there isn't anything that any  
34 expert knows about getting rid of that stuff that is actually going to clean  
35 it up. We're just at the very best going to minimize this horrendous  
36 situation.

37  
38 Pat Serie:

39 Thank you, Mr. Stock. Nancy Malmgren, then we have Lisa Cabana,  
40 Shirley Morrison, and Roger Lorenz, please.

41  
42 Nancy Malmgren:

43 I'm Nancy Malmgren and I'm the director of Carkeek Water Shed Community Action  
44 Project. We're a small group of environmentalists that have tried to restore  
45 and revitalize a small urban watershed in Northwest Seattle. We received a  
46 wake up call from friends in Oregon who were concerned about rivers and water  
47 and clean water and also the grave concern of the nuclear waste pollution that  
48 would go into the surface water, groundwater, and into the Columbia River due  
49 to no cleanup at Hanford. We have never really taken positions over and above  
50 our small urban watershed and after a pole of the board, the board instructed

002324



me to make a statement in support of the cleanup of Hanford and the restriction of the FFTF because of some unproven kinds of things. I think there's a lot of things on the table and I think, uh, Mr. Stanley, I think you have a real need of sorting out a lot of these things. Certainly the Department of Energy has their mission, you as a Department of Ecology member have also the mission to implement the Clean Water Act, the Clean Drinking Water Act, and all the other resource recovery acts that are very, very vital to the health and welfare of our waters of this state. I think it's not an easy kind of thing, but part of your departments has the reuse, reduce, and recycle. Perhaps there's some mention of that kind of thing that can be done in determining a better outcome to all of this. The divisiveness that we've heard tonight is certainly paramount. We hear information that there are need of radioisotopes. I know that Senator Murray is a very compassionate person. She has friends and neighbors who have had cancer problems and I think we need to look at the real need of the isotopes. And frankly I'll be down in Olympia with the senior group and will be doing some extensive lobbying on this subject and I hope that your department, sir, will have the research in order to justify every single move you make. And the last thing I want to say is, Mr. Hughes, I think it's unconscionable that we have classified information. The people have a right to know exactly what the situation is. And having any part of the puzzle that is not exposed and identified, I think is unconscionable. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mrs. Malmgren. Lisa Cabana, nope. Shirley Morrison, nope. She was a Raging Granny. Roger Lorenz, nope. Nancy Rust, Representative Rust I believe has left. Wolfgang Klup, Dr. Klup. Greg Mack, gone. Bryce Smedley, K. Wollson, first initial K., Kerry Canfield, Mr. Canfield, great. After Mr. Canfield will be Rosemary Bollinger, John Peterson, and Dorothy Garrison-Swartz, please.

Kerry Canfield:

Well, I'm not going to say what I was going to originally say because I'm more confused now than I was when I came in. I guess I just have some observations and these aren't going to be in any particular order, they are just going to sort of come out as I think of them. It seems like if the medical isotopes use of FFTF is as good as a deal as it is, that ought to become the primary mission, and tritium ought to be out of the picture. I think that, you know, if we are so convinced that we need such powerful weapons, we need to take a deeper look at why we might have, why the United States in particular, might have some of the enemies that we think we need to use these weapons on or have them at least in readiness to be used against.

Another thing that I noticed, and I can't argue with all the people I saw in favor of using FFTF, I can't argue all those facts against them or for them really. I just think that it's odd that if cancer is going to be expected to be more widespread, that I think we need to take a look at what it is in our society that's causing cancer. And I'm not trying to point the finger at radiation in particular, I'm just, and not even necessarily. You know, what is it in our society that causes such a high incidence of cancer that we need

002325

1 stuff to fight cancer with. And I noticed that it seems like there's a real  
2 butting of heads against what the facts are and I think part of the problem is  
3 that so much of the information has been classified for so many years. I  
4 think if we were ever able to, ever going to come to any kind of consensus as  
5 to what we are going to do about whatever there is at Hanford, this  
6 information needs to be declassified so that the people who seem to know the  
7 science can satisfactorily, fully, openly explain it to the people who seem  
8 not to be in possession of the science. So that we can all understand what is  
9 safe, what is not safe. Because obviously a lot of that stuff that is at  
10 Hanford is not safe. It's not the sort of thing you'd want to go wallowing  
11 around in on a summer day.

12  
13 Pat Serie:

14 You need to finish, Mr. Canfield, please.

15  
16 Kerry Canfield:

17 Sorry?

002325

18  
19 Pat Serie:

20 You need to finish, please.

21  
22 Kerry Canfield:

23 OK. But then on the other hand, you know, if the FFTF is a safe facility,  
24 then that needs to be fully explained and fully defended so that people can  
25 separate it from the things at Hanford that aren't safe. And so maybe we're  
26 trying to bring too much into the discussion tonight. The people in the  
27 positions that, people who are in the position to present the information to  
28 the public, the people who are in the government need to be more open than  
29 they have been so that we can separate the fact from the fantasy. Thank you.

002325

30  
31 Pat Serie:

32 Thank you, Mr. Canfield. Rosemary Bollinger, nope. John Peterson?  
33 Mr. Peterson. After Mr. Peterson, we'll have Dorothy Garrison-Swartz,  
34 Ray Isaacson, Sally Pangborn, please.

35  
36 John Peterson:

37 I'm John Peterson. I agree with the majority of the people who've spoken here  
38 against the FFTF and I'm a veteran of the second World War. I was in it for  
39 four and one-half years and especially the Far East and I can tell you we  
40 didn't need to drop the bomb. Our own Marines and the Air Force, which I was  
41 a member of, took care of all the fighting and the war was over and we are the  
42 only ones that have used the atomic bomb. And Peter Jennings spent a whole  
43 hour or two hours I guess it was, showing that this was true, that we didn't  
44 need to do this. This is what started the whole thing, Henry Jackson and  
45 Norm Dicks have fought to try to get this 24 nuclear power plants in the  
46 Northwest, which resulted in all of us losing the low-rate electricity that we  
47 had for so long. There is a reason why we have so much trouble getting to a  
48 same solution. And Carl Sagan, who gave his life, he was marching in  
49 Las Vegas and places where there were actually testing bombs and he acquired  
50 leukemia of a fatal type and died. But he left us this best seller book,

002326

1 which goes into all of the people that have studied chimpanzees and who are  
2 our nearest relative and we have brought forth billion enzymes in us and those  
3 enzymes are only 4/10ths of 1% are different than what the chimps have. And  
4 the chimpanzees, there's no doubt that the reason I am bringing this up is  
5 because there is no doubt that the reason for this farce tonight is to get the  
6 right to continue making nuclear bombs. And to supposedly subject the rest of  
7 the world to our world. All the scientists are coming out now. This is the  
8 best seller book and fortunately the intelligent people in the world will,  
9 most of them have read it and they found out that the lifestyles of the  
10 chimpanzees, if they had a nuclear bomb, they would use it under neighboring  
11 chimps and there is absolutely no difference between the chimps and our war  
12 policies. I mean it doesn't make any sense whatever to even Don McDonald  
13 who's a financial advisor, who's on three hours a day on a business program.  
14 Somebody asked him, well, how about giving me some information on what to  
15 invest in case there's a third world war. And Don McDonald, I expected to him  
16 to give some conservative remark, but he spent about 15 minutes straightening  
17 this guy out. He said, if there is a nuclear war, there ain't gonna be any  
18 people left.

19  
20 Pat Serie:

21 You need to finish up, please, Mr. Peterson.

22  
23 John Peterson:

24 The fact is that the 4/10ths of 1% difference between us and the chimpanzees  
25 allows us to be like dictionaries and do scientific work and I myself just  
26 finished getting a 64 credits in advanced medicine. We can use that 4/10ths  
27 of 1% difference to get rid of these idiots that want to continue the arms  
28 race. Thank you.

29  
30 Pat Serie:

31 OK. A milestone on its own, we are about to go to a person number 100,  
32 Dorothy Garrison-Swarts. May I have a show of hands, I showing 35 people  
33 still signed up. How many people are actually still here that wish to speak?  
34 Ten, we might just about be there, but somebody may want to go out and ask if  
35 we can have like 15 and 20 minutes grace. OK, Dorothy Garrison-Swarts, nope.  
36 Ray Isaacson, Sally Pangborn, G. Sally Pangborn. Well, at this point we have  
37 to say we are grateful Ms. Pangborn. Russell Shelly, maybe not, Frank Zucker,  
38 David Bants. Is that you, Mr. Bants? You're just stretching. David Bants,  
39 Chuck Nafziger. Mr. Nafziger, please come forward. Next we have  
40 Stuart Poiterus, A.R. Stevens, and V.H. Campbell. Please be ready if you are  
41 here.

42  
43 Chuck Nafziger:

44 Hello. I'm Chuck Nafziger. I live in the Ballard part of Seattle. I want to  
45 welcome all the folks from the Tri-Cities, I hope you enjoy our hospitality  
46 here. You might not agree with what we say, but we are a hospitable people.  
47 I get a kick out of this you know, I just keep on thinking; we're from the  
48 government and we're here to help you. I've been an engineer for a while and  
49 as I get older I become more of a leadite. That means I don't trust  
50 technology. I'm hearing things today that just don't make any sense. We want

002326

002327

to bring 20 tons of the biggest carcinogen ever into our state in order to make some isotopes to help a few people who other people say these isotopes are already being made. Most of the cancer I've heard about, the biggest majority is believed to be caused by environmental causes. That's the chemicals we're spreading around, that's just, it's the waste that we're putting into the stream here. Now we're using the technological fix for that and it just doesn't make sense to me,  $2 + 2 = 6$ . The other excuse to tritium, another wacko thing, on this whole arms race. We're in a race with ourself and there's nobody else in this arms race. We don't need this tritium, we could turn Saddam Hussein and all his people into ash and all his sand into the glass without any of the tritium. We don't need that. So other things is just not adding up. What gets me though is the lunacy of all it. We call Hussein a lunatic, but what are the people on the outside that are looking at us watching us do this, watching us with this vast amount of weapons ready, able, capable of destroying the whole world unilaterally. They're looking at us and saying, why should we stop developing nuclear weapons, you guys won't even stop developing the hydrogen capability of your weapons. It's crazy. It's insane. It's lunacy. And if you the government unilaterally comes over here and says, oh we want to start this reactor, we don't care about your agreement. And we're here tonight to talk about it. We want the agreement enforced. We do care about it. We don't want this lunacy to continue.

Pat Serie:

Stuart Poiterus. Can the rest of the people who want to speak maybe line up here so we can hustle right through. They are concerned about going into the next hour. Stuart Poiterus, nope. A.R. Stevens, Dr. Stevens, nope. V.H. Campbell, Lawrence Jacobson, Marie First, Gus Fromuth, Cecelia Corr. OK, well, I'm feeling silly. Yep, I think so. Sir, you're at the beginning of the line. I have it, but what I would like is if anybody else who does still wish to speak could stand up and go for it. I'm sorry. Are you on the list and would still like to speak? You're it, OK. Doug Hayman. How 'bout that?

Doug Hayman:

First of all, I would like to say that I think the point that we all agree on whether we work at Hanford or we're the people that were speaking the majority first. None of us want to see a nuclear war. I don't think anybody who works where you guys work want to blow up people and incinerate them. I've been to Hiroshima, I've been to the museum, I've seen the devastation, I've talked to people from there. It's not something we need, we don't need any tritium, we don't need to make any more nuclear bombs, I don't think there is any sense in that.

Secondly, I think we're confusing the goodness and the intelligence of the people that work in the Hanford area with their need to survive. And we can find a way for people in those areas to transition into work that doesn't create bombs, ya know. If we need medical isotopes and FFTF is the place, fine, let's do that. But we don't need to pay you guys money to make bombs, it's not just an either/or thing. If we need medical isotopes and that's the only place, fine. And that's basically all I have to say.

002328

1 Pat Serie:

2 Great. Thank you, Mr. Hayman. Lori Morgan, nope. Pat Sumption,  
3 Brian Watson, Kathleen Myers, Paul Weir, Eric Esperhorst, Janna Rolland,  
4 Kender Taylor, Alice Ordway, Jackie Deupote, nope. William Hawkins. Yes,  
5 sir, please come up. That'd be great.  
6

7 William Hawkins:

8 My name is Bill Hawkins, I drove down here from Everett tonight. I'm here as  
9 a citizen and I'm also here as a grandparent, as I know many of you are. And  
10 I think the issue of building something to incinerate another human being is  
11 obscene. I'd like to tell you that my grandchildren are home and they're  
12 asleep, and they're safe. But I don't imagine that as long as there is anyone  
13 on this planet who conceives in the slightest way that we should have nuclear  
14 weapons, that my grandchildren or your grandchildren will ever be safe. I  
15 think you understand I'm opposed to restarting the FFT for the purpose of the  
16 production of nuclear bomb components. And I'm opposed to that production  
17 anywhere, not just here in the State of Washington. I was a downwinder in the  
18 1950s. I was a downwinder in the 1960s. I was a downwinder in the 1970s and  
19 I was a downwinder in the 1980s. I've followed these issues, I don't pretend  
20 to be an expert, I probably have a small fraction of what each of you that  
21 work there have of knowledge about this subject. But what I'd like to remind  
22 you of is what politics is about. Politics is who gets what where, when, and  
23 why. And we are not telling you that we want you to lose your jobs, or that  
24 we think you're a bad people, or what you do is wrong, because you're  
25 intentionally doing something. I'm just telling you from the political  
26 standpoint, we don't want bombs any more and we don't want you to produce any.  
27 Now I always have believed in the perfectibility of us as human beings, the  
28 perfectibility of us.  
29

30 END OF TAPE  
31

32 William Hawkins:

33 I have serious doubts about whether or not that we as a species are sane,  
34 never mind perfectible. And you ought to be lucky that I don't get to be  
35 captain of the earth. Because if I was captain of the earth for one day, what  
36 I would do is I would have the people of the DOE that thought up the idea of  
37 nuclear weapons and want to continue production, placed in an insane asylum  
38 for the criminally insane.  
39

40 I can only hope that the governor will be listening to the politics of this,  
41 because we can all do the science all day long. And you can get your experts  
42 to disagree with me and I can find my experts that will disagree with you.  
43 But for my grandchildren I'm saying to all of you, I will not, will not,  
44 accept the production of any more nuclear weapons, end of story. That's the  
45 politics of it, not the science of it, not the rationale of it, not the good  
46 intentions of it. I will not accept it and for the members of our state  
47 government, I hope you are listening, because I have lots of time left and I  
48 will be here to remind you. Thank you.  
49  
50

1 Pat Serie:

2 Thanks. Rob Meyer, is Rob Meyer here? Mary Gallagher.

3  
4 Mary Gallagher:

5 Hello. My name is Mary Gallagher and I'm a licensed naturopathic doctor in  
6 the State of Washington. In August of '96, I attended an education and  
7 training program for health professionals given by the Hanford research group,  
8 a governmental funded group of researchers who gather and study the  
9 radioactive waste dumped into the water, soil, and air from the Hanford  
10 facility. The best part of this seminar was hearing the victims of the  
11 radioactive dumping. They still struggle to get accurate information of both  
12 the dumping activities and the research that was gathered. Because the  
13 government won't easily supply this information or knowledge that their  
14 actions, the government's actions, have had any health effects, these sick  
15 individuals are giving the life energy they have left to be their own  
16 advocate. The worst aspect of this seminar was learning that the government  
17 takes no financial responsibility for the health problems caused by these  
18 irresponsible acts. With the government funding their own research, will they  
19 ever face imposed accountability? It's unlikely with this setup. Note that  
20 safe waste standards are set to support industry, not the health of the  
21 public. I find it curious that the government is willing to spend money  
22 educating health professionals to quell the emotional concerns of the  
23 downwinders, yet they are unwilling to acknowledge their actions have had any  
24 negative health effects. Due to this lack of responsibility demonstrated in  
25 their last project, I do not support the new. Thank you.

26  
27 Pat Serie:

28 Thank you, Dr. Gallagher. Hiro Muranaka, please. Great. Then I'll have  
29 LeAnne Duvecky and Jon Stier and Peter Hayes.

30  
31 Hiro Muranaka:

32 Hi. My name is Hiro Muranaka and my livelihood does not depend on Hanford  
33 activities and this comment is not just directed toward people from  
34 Tri-Cities, you know who you are. I have parents who'd both of them died from  
35 cancer, who happened to be at the time of death 7,000 miles away from Hanford,  
36 or any nuclear activities. To put it succinctly, I am for maintaining FFTF as  
37 our national asset. I think it's the best way to burn up or expend  
38 weapons-grade plutonium which is now an excess, as I understand it. Also,  
39 because I lost my parents from cancer, I believe that there is enormous need  
40 for medical isotopes in source and domestic supply. I don't think we need to  
41 be 100% dependent on foreign nations for that. And then I'd like to offer  
42 some observation, it seems like the atmosphere of expressing extreme disdain  
43 for anything nuclear technology is tantamount to book burning by the extreme  
44 right. And as a minority, I feel very, very nervous about the political  
45 climate and supposed moral political correctness that has been expressed  
46 throughout this meeting. Thank you.

47  
48 Pat Serie:

49 LeAnne Duvecky, nope. Jon Stier.

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1 Jon Stier:

2 Jon Stier, Environmental Advocate with WashPIRG, the Washington Public  
3 Interest Research Group, we're actually one of the state's leading  
4 environmental consumer and government reform groups. We have over 28,000  
5 citizen members statewide. I've heard a lot tonight so I'm not going to  
6 necessarily go over it all, but I'm going to go over a couple of things we do  
7 know. We know we don't need tritium, we've heard enough about that. We know  
8 the medical isotope issue is a canard. We know the radioactive, we do know  
9 that we do have radioactive waste leaching into the Columbia River right now,  
10 and you only admitted that recently even though you knew or should have known  
11 about this much sooner. We know that you are inept and we know that you are  
12 corrupt.

13  
14 Do not restart the Fast Flux Test Facility. Stick to the Tri-Party Agreement.  
15 The history of Hanford is a history of reckless disregard for the public  
16 health. The history of Hanford is the history of the exposure of over two  
17 million Northwest residents to deadly radiation, followed by years-long  
18 coverups based on the cynical pretext that national security, an unrelenting  
19 campaign of retaliation against those who would speak out and the litany of  
20 lies about all the above. The long and short of this, gentlemen, is that you  
21 have breached the public trust too many times from the Green Run Experiment of  
22 1949 where you purposefully assaulted eastern Washington communities with high  
23 dosages of iodine-131, in order to ascertain whether the U.S. population would  
24 survive in the event that we initiated a nuclear war and the soviets counter  
25 attacked. From that event in 1949 until the most recent events in this past  
26 year, when we had an explosion at the Hanford Site and you lied about what had  
27 come out of that explosion. And you lied about your treatment of the workers.  
28 In those events, for the past 50 years, we know that we cannot trust you to  
29 tell us the truth. We know that we cannot trust you to safely handle  
30 plutonium. We know that what you need to do now is get back to Hanford with  
31 your tails between your legs and get it cleaned up and don't come back here  
32 with any more of these idiot hair-brained ideas about restarting the Fast Flux  
33 Facility or any other nuclear weapons site at Hanford or anywhere else. Get  
34 back there and clean it up and do it now.

35  
36 Pat Serie:

37 OK. Next is Peter Hayes. Peter Hayes here? Gar Ulbricht, Mr. Ulbricht,  
38 right. After Mr. Ulbricht, we have Chris Jackins and Joe Conant. And then  
39 we'll see who we have left.

40  
41 Gar Ulbricht:

42 I want to thank you diehards for still being here, although I noticed that  
43 there was a big bus outside and I imagine some of you are riding home in that  
44 big bus, I guess. My name is Gar Ulbricht; my background is a civil engineer  
45 and as a father. I'm just going to make a few remarks that at first may seem  
46 unrelated, but please bear with me. My youngest daughter, Meg, age 13, every  
47 night comes home and watches the nightly news. She likes to be informed like  
48 her grandfather and stay current. The big story on the nightly news tonight  
49 was not this meeting, although it did make a small little bit, but it was  
50 Randy Johnson speaking next door over at the Key Arena. And Randy kind of

002333

1 hinted that he'd like to throw out the first pitch and maybe he will, we'll  
2 find out. The other news was Oprah was on trial down in Texas, something  
3 about hamburgers and mad cow disease. That actually got more news than this.  
4 Last week, of course, the big news was about the tobacco 15 billion dollars I  
5 believe it was down in Texas. When I read Grisham's book on the runaway jury  
6 and he had that sentiment, I think if I can remember that book right, I think  
7 it was like 50 million and that seemed really big. And it turns out that he  
8 was off by a factor of something or other. It was 15 billion, maybe his  
9 number was higher, I don't remember. But 15 billion for tobacco and of course  
10 a good share of that sum was going to go into education on the kids, I guess.  
11 I was aware of the Green Run and I did catch Gerry made something on the  
12 little news today, he talked about some other coverup that's just coming out  
13 now. And I'm sure we're going to find out some more coverups so they'll just  
14 keep leaking out there. Of course, they've had to keep the Green Run and all  
15 these other things kind of quiet because of national security and that's been  
16 a big issue.

17  
18 How are these unseemingly unrelated news things kinda tied together? I don't  
19 know, maybe I can't pull them together, but bear with me one second and I  
20 think maybe I can. I've said it for the last five years, I've been studying  
21 the nuclear waste issue and been thinking about it and how are we going to do  
22 this. I mean this problem has been around for 50 some odd years, how are we  
23 really going to do it. And thinking about it and thinking about the evolution  
24 of things that are coming out now and a few people have touched on it, you  
25 know low-level radiation, I'm still convinced is the mechanism that the great  
26 creator set up to cause things to evolve, low-level radiation. And I kind of  
27 suggest that maybe this mad cow disease is kind of related. They want to  
28 blame it on the fact that maybe it was antibiotics, you know we had runaway  
29 antibiotics and that is what caused the mad cow disease. But I kind of wonder  
30 if we kind of look where those mad cows started out, we're going to find out I  
31 think they were pretty close to Sellafield and those of you know what  
32 Sellafield's about. Anyway my youngest daughter aged 13, she's got Downs  
33 Syndrome. We were just downstream of Rocky Flats. I don't blame her Downs  
34 Syndrome on the fact that we lived just downstream of Rocky Flats, but I do  
35 know there is a high incidence of Downs around places like Rocky Flats,  
36 Sellafield, Three-Mile Island, and places like that. I suspect that when the  
37 secrets come out, it's going to make the 15 billion dollar tobacco thing look  
38 like child's play because I think we have the next big lawsuit. If there's  
39 any lawyers in the crowd, get in on the bandwagon now, it's getting ripe and  
40 15 billion dollars is out there and boys I'm starting it right now. You've  
41 heard it here first, but this is the next good lawsuit. It's going to beat  
42 the tobacco all hollow.

43  
44 Pat Serie:

45 Thank you. Mr. Ulbricht. Chris Jackins. Joe, you're the last one signed up.

46  
47 Chris Jackins:

48 My name is Chris Jackins. The FFTF reactor should not be used to produce  
49 tritium. The focus should be on cleaning up Hanford's radioactive waste, not  
50 producing more waste. The government should not be producing tritium at all.

002334



1 Tritium is used for fusion bombs. Such weapons are not needed for strategic  
2 and military targets. With the very accurate missiles now available, the  
3 extra power of fusion weapons is not necessary. Such weapons are not needed  
4 for deterrence, non-tritium fission bombs will suffice. That leaves the mass  
5 destruction of human populations. This should not be our government's goal.  
6 Fusion bombs are not needed. The United States should not be in the business  
7 of producing tritium. Thank you.  
8

9 Pat Serie:  
10 Joe Conant.  
11

12 Joe Conant:

002335

13 Hi. I'm a Hanford worker and I'm really proud to see so many people concerned  
14 about different issues and everybody being out here. And even with the  
15 different groups here, that just makes my job that much safer working out in a  
16 place like that. But I did hear a lot of things about reckless Hanford and  
17 that there. Well, Hanford wasn't made because people wanted to blow up the  
18 world. Hanford was made to protect us. And when Hanford was a made out  
19 there, the radiation that is leaking now, just think what kind of radiation  
20 could be in your groundwaters in the United States today if it was Germany  
21 that made the bomb. Could there even be a U.S.A.? Now I'm glad everybody's  
22 responsible. I don't want cancer. I don't want to see anybody else get  
23 cancer. Now hopefully we can stop spendin' any money on defense today. Maybe  
24 we do have enough plutonium and we don't need it no more. You know it'd be  
25 great. But I do think Hanford was responsible to be safe for our country, to  
26 protect us. And DOE, you got to thank them. Now as far as getting rid of the  
27 bombs, let's think for the other people here. Everybody's tries to be  
28 responsible and we're all working for the same thing. I don't think anybody's  
29 really reckless, so. And if we don't need any more tritium, great, don't  
30 start it. You know, if we some isotopes, let's start it. But let's all make  
31 it a reasonable decision on this stuff and thanks for your time.  
32

33 Pat Serie:

34 Thanks, Mr. Conant. OK. You two both still? OK. Come on up, please. We  
35 don't have you signed in so if you can state your name for the record, that  
36 would be great.  
37

38 Katie Banfield:

002336

39 Hi. My name is Katie Banfield and I'm representing my workplace, Heart of  
40 America, and also just my own interactions on the phone in the last couple of  
41 weeks and months. Since I have only started learning about this issue for the  
42 past four months and can't say that I know a lot of the facts and details, I'd  
43 rather represent the people I've talked to on the phone and the voices that I  
44 haven't heard. I've heard Hanford workers who could make it here and were  
45 healthy enough to make the ride. I spoke to a lot of people who have been  
46 affected by Hanford that are upset about the fact that there's only four  
47 hearings first of all and that three of them are east of the Cascades. Not to  
48 argue the facts and the details, but just to say that the process is important  
49 and that there are people that aren't healthy enough to travel from Spokane,  
50 to say, the Tri-Cities. There are people that can't make it to Hood River or

1 Portland or Seattle that want to be heard and that should be heard, And that  
2 I would hope there'd be more effort in the future put into having more  
3 hearings like this, not rushing the process. I mean I've heard some bad words  
4 or angry bitter words spoken against certain members of the panel here, but  
5 the fact is, we had to fight tooth and nail just to get these hearings, for  
6 any of us to be heard. And we shouldn't have to do that. We had to get the  
7 comment period extended so that we could have any say in it and that shouldn't  
8 be the case. This is a decision that should be made in the open. More people  
9 should be able to contribute. I mean, when I ask myself who cares about this  
10 issue, I think who should care. The people who are affected by it,  
11 downwinders, they care. They couldn't make it here. I've talked to several  
12 downwinders who care who can't make it to a hearing because they're ill,  
13 they're too far away from the possible locations. Who else should care,  
14 people like, that are making the decision. Where's Secretary Peña? Where's  
15 Governor Locke? You know, where are your bosses? My boss is here, I've heard  
16 a lot of things said negatively against him, but he's here and that's why I'm  
17 here, because he cares and he shows me he cares and I care. You know,  
18 Tom Carpenter was here when all of his employees spoke, he stayed and waited  
19 and listened to them. Where are your bosses? I'd be pissed off I were you,  
20 honestly, they send you here to listen to us complain. Where are they?

21  
22 Pat Serie:

23 You need to finish, please.

24  
25 Katie Banfield:

26 OK. So those are my points, the people who care aren't here and you know  
27 hopefully our words will be sent to their ears. But it's a shame that that's  
28 the way it has to work indirectly like that. Your boss should be here. And  
29 everybody's boss should be here and we should see who cares in front of our  
30 eyes and you know not have to pass these messages along second hand. Thanks,  
31 that's all.

32  
33 Pat Serie:

34 Thank you, Katie. OK. Your name, please, and I think we're done.

35  
36 Eddie Tis:

37 My name is Eddie Tis and I'm a member of the IWW and I'm a member of the labor  
38 party and nobody hates bosses more than I do I think. This gentleman that's  
39 walking back here in the white cap, what's your name? Mike. I was speaking  
40 to Mike before the hearing and you promised me that FFTF had nothing to do  
41 with nuclear weapons and everything to do with curing cancer and you told me  
42 you really believed that and I should listen to the hearing with an open mind.  
43 And I listened and I heard these men saying how badly we need nuclear weapons.  
44 So what I want you Hanford workers to ask yourselves is, do you really believe  
45 that this is about curing cancer? Even after they said that it's not, you  
46 really believe that? I just want to state that I don't want to be your enemy  
47 and I don't think anybody here wants to be your enemy. We have a mutual  
48 enemy. The mutual enemy is the boss. And this is the boss' spokesperson.  
49 And I hope the most depressing I heard tonight is that the OCAW endorses FFTF.

1 And I just hope that you guys think about what FFTF is really for and that you  
2 can get OCAW to change its mind. Thanks.  
3

4 Pat Serie:

5 Thank you. And thank you all for staying. As Roger mentioned, the comment  
6 period has been extended till February 20. So written comments, there's a  
7 meeting in Richland, Thursday, and then Hood River on February 12<sup>th</sup>, and good  
8 night. Thank you all for being here.

1A

Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Seattle, January 20, 1998

ADDITIONAL  
COMMENT  
ON  
PROP'D  
TPA  
MILESTONES

Name	Organization	Check if Presented
1. Janet Eary <sup>MD</sup> + Ken Krohn <sup>PhD</sup>	University of Washington	✓
2. Ken Kadlec	Tim McDermott's office	✓
3. <del>LaPrade, Barnes</del>	Individual	✓
4. <del>Mark Dave Hall, MD</del>	Nat'l Physicians for Social Responsibility	✓
5. Evan Kanter, MD	WA Physicians for Soc. Res.	✓
6. <del>Tom Carpenter</del>	Gov't Accountability Project	✓
7. Jim Trombold, MD	WA Physicians for Soc. Resp.	✓
8. Tim Keller	WA State Medical Association	✓
9. Ben Cohen	Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream	✓
10. <del>Harry Rising</del>	Peace Action	✓
11. <del>Cherry Pollett</del>	Heart of America	✓
12. <del>Arthur Kitz MD</del>	Disease Health Policy	✓
13. Patricia Binko MD	<del>Peace</del>	✓
14. <del>John Weyrauch</del>	University Friends Meeting	✓
15. Cindi Lantz	Heart of America	✓
16. Dave Johnson	Individual	✓
17. Dana Gold	Government Accountability Project	✓
18. Rosemarie Brodie MD	⑤	✓
19. Martin Fleck		✓
20. Denis Hayes	(start by Mark Hatfield)	✓

BE  
READ

18

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Seattle, January 20, 1998**

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented
21	Scott McLagan	NACC	✓
22	John Reese	Earth First!	✓
23	Erica Hag	Mediawatch	✓
24	Orange	EF!	✓
25	<del>David Jones</del> <sup>APPROX</sup> <del>CSB</del>	Washington Conservation <sup>SC</sup>	✓
26	Paul Horst	MA	
27	<u>PAIGE LEVEN</u>		✓
28	DANIEL HOGAN	KING COUNTY DEMOCRATS	✓
29	<u>Ruth Varney</u>		✓
30	Mark Toman		✓
31	Kristen Bufus		✓
32	<del>Steve LeGault</del>		
33	Alice Nugent		✓
34	Nancy Dickerman		✓
35	<sup>KAY THODE</sup> <del>Anna Johnson</del>		✓
36	Piffany Devoy		✓
37	JANE BOLTENHOUSE		✓
38	ED KRAMER		✓
39	Kay Rode	CAROLYN CANAFAX / WILF	0
40	Benny Wamsley		

2A

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Seattle, January 20, 1998**

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented
41	Fred Hevsky	46 Dist Demos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
42	Donna Chumley	34 Dist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
43	<del>ISA CARLSON</del>	<del>ISA CARLSON</del>	
44	<del>ISA CARLSON</del>	<del>ISA CARLSON</del>	
45	DANE SPENNER	SELF	
46	Lyng Vingard	Down Watch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
47	MARVA KING	SELF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
48	ROBERT HAUG	GREEN PARTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
49	Ray Rhode		
50	Fred Lertz		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
51	Phyllis Fiege	Peace Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
52	Fred Miller	Peace Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
53	CATHERINE O'NEALE	SELF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
54	Sylvia Haven	family & friends (self)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
55	Bob Talbert	Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
56	Mary Hanson	LOW FOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
57	Alexandra Py	Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
58	Warren Jones		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
59	Annie Koppel	Seattle Women Act for Peace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
60	Rebecca Bauen		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2B

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Seattle, January 20, 1998**

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented
61	<del>Alex Cooper</del>	HCA NW	<del>0</del>
62	HARRY WALL	IND.	<del>0</del> ✓
63	<del>Carol Woods</del>	<del>Self</del>	<del>0</del> ✓
64	ROBERT STEGMAN	SELF	<del>0</del> ✓
65	<del>Margaret Portney</del>	<del>SELF</del>	<del>0</del>
66	Keith A Smith	Hammond Atomic Metal Trades	<del>0</del> ✓
67	GARY TROYER	SELF	<del>0</del> ✓
68	Derek Jones	Friends of FFTF	<del>0</del> ✓
69	<del>Jan Johnston</del>	<del>self</del>	<del>0</del> ✓
70	Teresa Mix	self	<del>0</del> ✓
71	Mike Finn	Hammond Atomic Metal Trades	<del>0</del> ①
72	<del>Pete Hennemann</del>	<del>Hammond Atomic Metal Trades</del>	<del>0</del> ③
73	James Waters	self	③
74	Joseph D. Corant	Friends of FFTF	
75	Gary E. Walker	Hammer	
76	MIKE WALKER	HAMMER	TRAILS ✓
77	RONALD GUNGE	SELF	✓
78	<del>ESSE PEREZ</del>	<del>HAMMOND ATOMIC METAL TRADES</del>	<del>0</del> ✓
79	BARBARA ZEPEDA	COA	✓ ①
80	NANCY RISIK	PEACE ACTION	<del>0</del>

3A

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Seattle, January 20, 1998**

36

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented
81	<del>Grant L. McMahon</del>	OCAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
82	<del>John McLaughlin</del>	WPSR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
83	<del>Rosemary Brodie</del>	SWAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
84	<del>John T. Tamm</del>	SELF	
85	<del>CHARLIE McATEER</del>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
86	Milo Fryling		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
87	SIDNEY STICK	SELF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
88	Nancy Malinowski	CWOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
89	Lisa Cabana	SELF	
90	<del>Shirley H. Brown</del>	<del>King County Democrats</del>	
91	<del>Roger Lorenz</del>	<del>Wash. State (NAC - B. 10/2)</del>	
92	<del>Harold Reed</del>	<del>former Wash. Representative - no longer needed</del>	
93	Wolfgang Kluge MD.	SELF + PSR	
94	Greg Mack	MYSELF	
95	Bryce Smiley	Myself.	
96	<del>Khulman</del>	SELF NFFTF	
97	Kerry Canfield	Heart of America NW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
98	<del>Rosemary Bellinger</del>	SELF	
99	John H. Peterson	36 Dist Democrats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
100	<del>Dan H. Garrison</del>	<del>Wash. State 85th &amp; 16th St, MI 1</del>	

no longer needed  
wait, bro



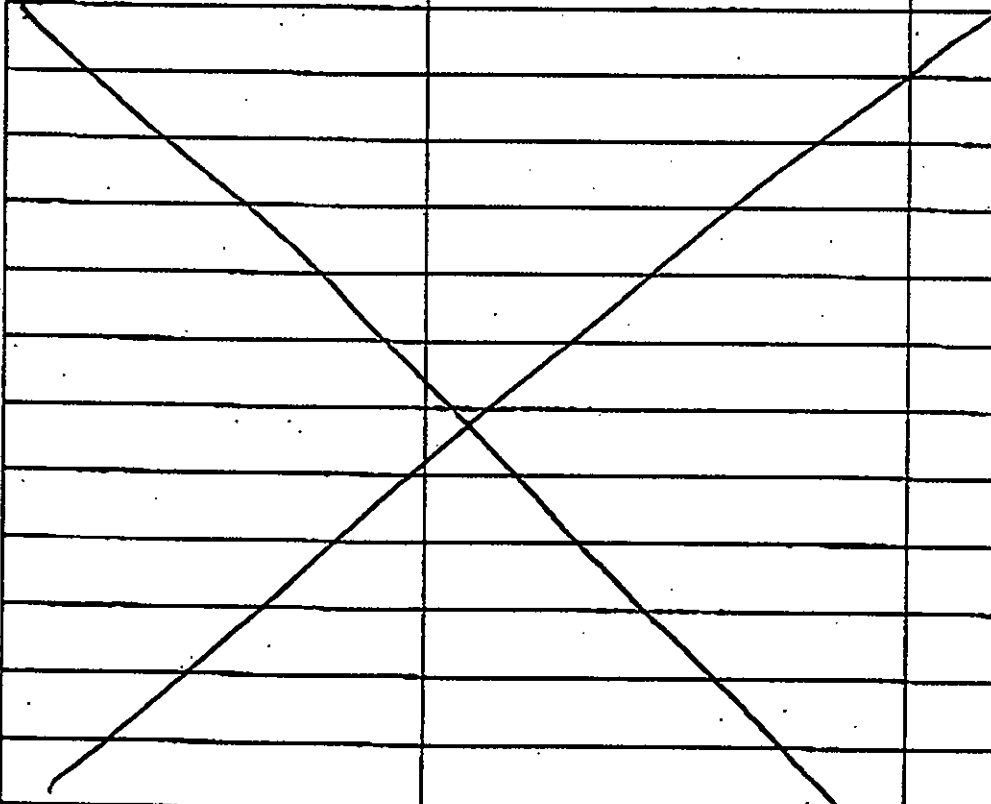
3B

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Seattle, January 20, 1998**

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented
101	<del>Rob Clay</del>	<del>Self</del>	
102	<del>RAY ISAACSON</del>	<del>SELF</del>	Ⓟ
103	<del>H. Bailey Pangborn</del>	<del>Head of Amer. N. W.</del>	Ⓟ
104	<del>Russell D. Shelly</del>	<del>Mother Nature and The Animals</del>	
105	<del>Frank Zucker</del>	<del>—</del>	
106	<del>David Bantz</del>	<del>Self</del>	
107	<del>CHUCK NAFZIGER</del>	<del>—</del>	✓
108	<del>Dan H. Weger</del>	<del>—</del>	
109	<del>Shane Potlans</del>	<del>Self</del>	
110	<del>A. R. STEVENS</del>	<del>retired M.D.</del>	
111	<del>H. H. Campbell</del>	<del>Self</del>	
112	<del>Lawrence Lawson</del>	<del>Self</del>	
113	<del>Henry Frost</del>	<del>Quakers Friends to the Environment for a Public Policy</del>	
114	<del>Eric Frommuth</del>	<del>Quakers</del>	
115	<del>Cecilia Carr</del>	<del>Self</del>	
116	<del>Hon. Patton</del>	<del>Self</del>	
117	<del>Sarah Jaynes</del>	<del>Self</del>	
118			
119			
120			

4A

Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Seattle, January 20, 1998

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented
121	<del>CHUCK KATZ</del>	—	
122	DOUG HAYMAN	—	✓
123	<del>Lois Morgan</del>		
124	<del>Pat Sumption</del>		
125	Brian Watson	Ground Zero Ctr.	
126	<del>Kathleen Myers</del>		
127	<del>Patricia Baito</del>		
128	PAUL WEIR		
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4B

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Seattle, January 20, 1998**

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented
141	<del>Eric Esperherst</del>	Friends of the Earth	
142	<del>Janna Rolland</del>		
143	<del>Kender Taylor</del>	Int'l Green Party Mont.	
144	<del>Jean Leitch</del>		
145	<del>Dennis Hayes</del>	<del>Bull-Horn Farm</del>	
146	<del>Lauren Tozzi</del>	<del>NOW / NACC</del>	
147	<del>Alexis Ordway</del>		self
148	<del>Janice DeLuca</del>		self
149	<del>Kelly Gaudet</del>	<del>STATE</del>	
150	William R. Hawkins		✓
151	<del>Rob Meyer</del>	<del>Self</del>	
152	Mary Gallagher	self	✓
153	Hiro Muranaka	Self	✓
154	<del>LeAnne Ordway</del>	<del>self</del>	
155	Jon Stier	WashPIRG	✓
156			
157			
158			
159			
160			

SA

Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Seattle, January 20, 1998

Name	Organization	Check if Presented
161 <del>John Hays</del>	<del>No on FFTF</del>	
162 Gar Tillbricht		✓
163		
164		
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5B

Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Seattle, January 20, 1998

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented
181	CHRIS JACKINS	PO BOX 84063 SEA 98124	✓
182	Joe Conant		✓
183	KATIE DANFELD	HOANU	✓
184	EDGE TATE (?)	LABOR PARTY -	✓
185			
186			
187			
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200			

THANKS -

COMMENT PD.  
1/20

THURS. 1/22

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT PUBLIC MEETING FOR FFTF  
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON  
JANUARY 22, 1998

Panel Members:

Tom Carpenter - U.S. Government Accountability Project  
Doc Hastings - Congressman  
Ernie Hughes - U.S. Department of Energy  
Gerald Pollet - Heart of America Northwest  
Pat Serie - Moderator  
Roger Stanley - U.S. Department of Ecology  
Jon Yerxa - U.S. Department of Energy

Pat Serie:

My name is Pat Serie. I am the moderator this evening. I want to welcome you to the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement public meeting. This is the third in a series of four meetings, which accounts for my bumbling beginning here.

Our purpose here tonight is to describe and hear your comments on proposed revisions to the Tri-Party Agreement, which is the regulatory blueprint for Hanford cleanup. Those revisions are intended to reflect a change in status for Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility, or the FFTF. As most of you know, the Tri-Party Agreement contains milestones for deactivating FFTF. That deactivation process has been suspended and may or may not begin again. The three Tri-Party agencies, the Washington Department of Ecology, which is the lead on this issue, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy are asking for your comments on whether the deactivation milestones should be revised. The proposed change package, which is available on the table outside, and it should be noted the comment period on that proposed change on that comment period has been extended to February 20th, and the last meeting is February 12th in Hood River. That proposed change package is available back outside the door. I know there are strong feelings about whether or not FFTF should ultimately be restarted and I ask that you remember tonight that the question is not yet that question. The agencies need to walk away with your input on whether or not to change the Tri-Party Agreement milestones. So please be sure to provide your comments on that question.

We have structured the meeting to provide the bulk of the time to hear from you. Here's how that will operate. We will first have a brief description of the status of the FFTF standby process and the background of the proposed changes to the Tri-Party Agreement. We will hear from Congressman Doc Hastings on the issue and his perspective on it. We will then hear an alternative viewpoint on the proposed milestone changes from two interest groups. Then we are going to take a brief time (15 minutes) to allow clarifying questions before we get into public comment. We truly want only clarifications here. We are going to ask our panel members to keep their responses just as brief as possible. What we've been seeing the last couple of meetings is a lot of people with questions and we need quick responses so

1 we can get in as many as we can. We won't be asking the agencies to respond  
2 to comments tonight, but the entire proceeding is recorded and written  
3 responses will be provided to both the questions and the comments following  
4 the meeting. So we should be able to start public comment by at least 7:45  
5 based on the first-come, first-serve sign in sheet that we had outside. Based  
6 on the number of people we have so far, I'm going to ask that people  
7 representing organizations, that one person represent an organization limit  
8 their comments to five minutes and that if you are an individual, that you  
9 limit your input to three minutes. Written comments are of course welcome and  
10 there are forms outside.

11  
12 You are welcome to come up and use the podium over here or there is a  
13 microphone in that aisle. Yes, sir.

14  
15 Unidentified person:

16 I'd like to raise a point of order.

002338

17  
18 Pat Serie:

19 Yes.

20  
21 Unidentified person:

22 I was not able to attend the Seattle hearings, but I understand it was more of  
23 a circus than a hearing. I had a discussion with a Department of Energy  
24 person today and protested the kind of noise and the intended drowning out of  
25 people who were trying to give testimony. And I was told that the Department  
26 of Energy had to bend over backwards to guarantee free speech to those  
27 protestors and I am wondering what will you do this evening and at future  
28 meetings to guarantee my right, my constitutional right, to free speech and be  
29 heard?

002338

30  
31 Pat Serie:

32 We were actually able in Seattle, I think it was thanks to some support from  
33 the audience, to get some of the distractions off to the side and, in fact,  
34 everyone was heard and went on record. Every person who desired to speak was  
35 heard and it was recorded. I think we are going to be fine this evening.

36  
37 Unidentified person:

38 Is there anything that you can do to ensure that in this meeting and other  
39 meetings? I'm thinking of Hood River and other DOE hearings. Can you not  
40 control people to hold a free speech open ...

002338

41  
42 Pat Serie:

43 Again, I think that what proved in both Seattle and Portland was in fact  
44 everyone did have a fair chance to make their comments and they were all  
45 captured, so I don't see it's a problem.

46  
47 Gerald Pollet:

48 Maybe you referring to the fact that they had signs. So maybe you should ask  
49 everyone in the audience not to hold up signs tonight because one of the FFTF  
50 supporters yelled that people were idiots for holding up signs.

002339

Pat Serie:

OK. You know we have a lot to cover tonight and a lot of people signed up, and I want to get us to the public comment period as rapidly as possible. You'll note on the agenda we are scheduled to end at 9:30. We don't think as long as we need to be sure that we do hear from everyone. If you have questions and don't get them in during the brief question period, the agency people are willing to stick around and also answer one-on-one questions. If you do decide you want to speak and you haven't signed up yet, please go on out and they will be running names up all evening. Along the lines of this gentleman's concern, I ask that you all respect the rights of every speaker and your neighbors' to speak during the allotted times and to hold other comments and questions until you have the floor. My job is to keep us on schedule and to give everyone an opportunity to go on record and so I'll let you know when you need to move on to the next person.

So let me introduce the people who are up at the table here tonight. Congressman Hastings is at the end and I believe we aren't going to be able to keep him from his busy schedule for the whole evening, but he will be with us for a while here. Jon Yerxa from the Department of Energy, representing the Tri-Party Agreement side of things; Gerald Pollet with Heart of America Northwest; Ernie Hughes will be talking about the FFTF Standby Project; Roger Stanley is the Department of Ecology's cognizant official on this; and Tom Carpenter is with the Government Accountability Project. Ernie is going to make a brief presentation on what the status of the FFTF standby is at this point and following that, Roger Stanley is going to talk about the proposed milestone changes. Ernie?

Ernie Hughes:

Thank you, Pat. Good evening. In addition to my responsibilities as the Director of the FFTF Project Office, I'm here tonight along with Jon Yerxa to represent the DOE as the Tri-Party Agreement representative. There is a change in the status of FFTF and tonight we are here to explain the proposed revisions to the Tri-Party Agreement milestones that result from that change. The proposed milestone revision is not a decision to restart the facility. The proposed revision simply reflects that FFTF has gone from deactivation to standby status until it is decided if the facility is needed to support the nation's requirements for tritium. My remarks will be brief to allow maximum time for your questions and comments on this proposal.

For those of you who may not be familiar with FFTF, it is a 400-megawatt, sodium-cooled reactor built in 1970s, started up in 1980, and operated from 1982 to 1992 to test liquid metal reactor technology components in systems. The reactor is located at the Hanford Site, four miles west of the Columbia River. Unlike the production reactors at Hanford, it does not take water from the Columbia, it does not discharge anything into the Columbia, nor does it discharge radioactive effluents to the ground either surface or subsurface. In the early 1990s there was no identified mission for the FFTF so in December 1993, the Department of Energy issued a formal shutdown order for the facility. The Tri-Party Agreement agencies, in July 1995, established a set of deactivation milestones since the Department of Energy had decided that



1 FFTF no longer had a mission. The staff of the FFTF moved forward with a  
2 deactivation program that safely defueled the reactor and placed many of the  
3 systems in a shutdown condition. In late 1995, Secretary of Energy  
4 Hazel O'Leary received an unsolicited privatization proposal to take over the  
5 FFTF and, with private funding, produce tritium and sell it back to the  
6 government. In the proposal, the revenue from the tritium production would be  
7 used to expand FFTF's capability to produce medical isotopes.

8  
9 Tritium production is essential to maintain our nation's current stockpile of  
10 nuclear weapons. One-half of the tritium is lost to radioactive decay every  
11 12.3 years. The United States last produced tritium in 1988. That source,  
12 the K reactor at Savannah River, is no longer available. In late 1995, the  
13 U.S. Nuclear Weapons Council and the President determined that a new tritium  
14 source is needed by the year 2005. The Department of Energy is responsible  
15 for providing tritium to the Department of Defense and is therefore caught in  
16 a dilemma. The two current tritium production options each have major issues.  
17 The accelerator option requires billions of dollars in funding out of a flat  
18 Department of Energy budget. The use of a commercial light water reactor for  
19 tritium production requires controversial Congressional legislation. In  
20 addition, the need for tritium could change if the Russians ratify Strategic  
21 Arms Reduction Treaty Number II agreement. The need could also change if  
22 there are new negotiations. Faced with this dilemma, the Secretary stopped  
23 the irreversible step of draining the sodium from FFTF and commissioned  
24 independent reviews to look at the technical and economic feasibility of using  
25 the facility. Those reviews indicated that FFTF could safely and economically  
26 produce tritium on an interim basis. In January 1997, the Secretary of Energy  
27 issued DOE's decision to maintain FFTF in a standby mode pending a decision by  
28 the Department to be made by December 1998 on whether or not the facility will  
29 play a role in the nation's tritium production strategy. Today the FFTF  
30 reactor is completely defueled. Detailed technical, economic, safety, and  
31 environmental analyses to help the Secretary make a decision have been  
32 completed. Reports of those analyses were issued December 1st and are  
33 publicly available.

34  
35 Currently, FFTF is being limited to activities that will not inhibit a reactor  
36 restart and therefore the original work schedules, which were the basis for  
37 the Tri-Party Agreement, are no longer applicable. The TPA milestones  
38 affected by the decision to maintain FFTF in standby are described in the fact  
39 sheet that was in the front of the auditorium. The M-81 series cover the  
40 physical deactivation of the facility and the M-20 series cover formal closure  
41 of the environmental permits. Recognizing the January 1997 change in facility  
42 status from deactivation to standby, the Tri-Party Agreement agencies agreed  
43 to negotiate revised TPA milestones. The Hanford Advisory Board was briefed  
44 on this need for the changes in July 1997. In October, the TPA agencies  
45 reached a tentative agreement to delete the existing milestones. The agencies  
46 also agreed, if the Secretary decides FFTF is to resume the shutdown process,  
47 negotiations on new deactivation milestone dates will be initiated within  
48 90 days. The Department of Energy also has stated that it intends to  
49 establish and maintain the management and funding responsibility for the FFTF  
50 under the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science, and Technology starting in fiscal

1 year 1999 through shutdown. And finally, any environmental compliance issues  
2 relevant to FFTF will continue to be addressed through the Washington State  
3 Department of Ecology Sitewide Compliance Assurance Program.

4  
5 In conclusion, FFTF status has been changed from deactivation to standby. The  
6 three agencies agree that the best way to deal with this change is the  
7 proposed agreement revising the milestones. Let me emphasize again, the  
8 proposed decision to revise the milestones is not a decision to restart the  
9 facility. Any decision of that nature would only occur after the preparation  
10 of an Environmental Impact Statement with full public involvement.

11  
12 We look forward to your questions and comments here tonight, either orally or  
13 by using the comment forms in the back. The three agencies would use the  
14 input that is focused directly on this change to revise and finalize the  
15 tentative agreement. We expect that some of your input may go beyond the  
16 specific focus of the TPA change request into the national policy issues of  
17 tritium need and future uses at Hanford. We will make sure that all of your  
18 comments are provided to the appropriate Department of Energy officials. In  
19 addition to your comments tonight, I encourage you to write to me directly or  
20 send electronic correspondence if you have any questions, opinions, concerns,  
21 or issues related to FFTF. Thank you very much.

22  
23 Pat Serie:

24 Thank you, Ernie. Roger Stanley with the Department of Ecology.

25  
26 Roger Stanley:

27 Thank you, Pat. As Pat noted, my name is Roger Stanley. I am with the  
28 Department of Ecology. I work on Tri-Party Agreement policy and negotiation  
29 issues. I know Pat mentioned the item about the extended comment period. I  
30 thought I would underscore that and make sure that folks had heard that. We  
31 had originally thought that the comment period would be over at the end of  
32 January. Because of the recent snow storm down in Hood River, we were forced  
33 to reschedule that meeting and so public comment now will end on February 20.  
34 I'd like to comment briefly on three aspects of this issue. First of all, the  
35 issue of a potential restart of the FFTF; secondly, just a brief comment on  
36 the Tri-Party Agreement overall; and third, on the Department of Ecology's  
37 tentative agreement to delete the current out-of-date milestones.

38  
39 First of all I want to recognize the importance of the issue of a potential  
40 restart. Restart of FFTF is certainly an issue that ought be of concern to  
41 all of us. The Department of Ecology plans to express its concerns regarding  
42 any restart proposal if and when the Department of Energy formally decides to  
43 consider FFTF operations and proceeds through an Environmental Impact  
44 Statement process. DOE has not made that decision to-date. Should it do so,  
45 I expect that Department of Ecology concerns would include, naturally,  
46 environmental impacts such as any wastes that would be generated and how they  
47 would be managed, potential impacts to Hanford cleanup efforts overall, the  
48 potential to take away from Hanford cleanup by taking away cleanup funding,  
and associated intersite waste issues.

Secondly, I'd like to note, as far as the Tri-Party Agreement goes, how important the TPA is to the Washington Department of Ecology. We take it very seriously; we view it essentially as a covenant between the state, between the people of the Pacific Northwest, and the federal government, to clean up the Hanford Site. We are exceptionally careful to keep its focus on its basic purposes: cleanup and compliance with environmental laws. As far as the Tri-Party's tentative agreement to delete the current TPA FFTF deactivation milestones, we have tentatively agreed to deletion because first of all, as Ernie noted, FFTF is no longer in deactivation. Those milestones are no longer valid; they're out of date. Secondly, because as one of the three managing agencies of the Tri-Party Agreement, we do not like to leave enforceable milestones on the books, but take no action. It damages the overall integrity of the TPA. Third, because the decision to stop deactivation and to put FFTF in a standby mode was not a Tri-Party Agreement decision. It was not one that the Department of Ecology or the Environmental Protection Agency had authority over. It was a decision that was made by the Secretary of Energy under the Secretary's authority. And fourth, because if DOE decides to pursue consideration of startup, that decision also will not be a Tri-Party Agreement decision. Should DOE make that decision and proceeds, it is legally bound to move through an open and public EIS process. It is also important to note that our tentative agreement is not simply an agreement to delete the milestones. There is, that is the aspect of it that gets the most visibility, but it really has four basic elements. I think Ernie noted most of these as well.

The first is deleting the now out-of-date milestones series, naturally. The second is a reinstatement clause so that if the decision is that shutdown should in fact continue, we will take the current series of milestones and the associated language and hold them up to the window so to speak, modify them accordingly, and put them back in force, so there is a reinstatement clause. The third is a recognition that during this interim period of consideration, FFTF is certainly not exempt from compliance with environmental law and any compliance issues at the plant will be dealt with as part of the state's Sitewide Compliance Assurance Program. And finally, as far as funding goes, agreement that if the decision is in fact to proceed with shutdown, those shutdown costs will be paid by the DOE's Nuclear Energy Program, not by the cleanup budget per se.

I also want to comment just briefly, or note, that the Department of Ecology is very concerned over the potential of this FFTF issue to take away from Hanford cleanup. Cleanup is the mission here at Hanford and we expect that it will continue to be the principal focus of site activities. Finally, I want to make it clear that the Department of Ecology recognizes the importance of these FFTF issues and that we have an open mind as far as the overall TPA requirements. That's what public comments periods are for frankly. We believe in the importance of this issue. When we moved into public comment late this last year, it was basically based on our belief that because of the importance of this issue the debate needed to get out in front of the public. I also want to note that we will be forwarding copies of all comments that we receive, whether they be oral or written, to the Office of the Governor and I

3 appreciate you all coming tonight and I look forward to your comments and  
4 insights on this issue. Thank you.

5 Pat Serie:

6 Thank you, Roger. Congressman Hastings. I think we are ready to hear from  
7 you.

8 Doc Hastings:

9 Well, thank you. I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear here this  
10 evening. This is really a critical discussion for us who have, and the reason  
11 why it is so critical because in large part of what has happened in Seattle  
12 and Portland because I believe both those hearings ignored one of the key  
13 reasons for utilizing FFTF as an interim tritium production machine. Let's be  
14 clear about one thing. The debate on this is not about whether this nation  
15 will produce tritium. That decision has already been made. We must replace  
16 tritium in our existing nuclear arsenal. Tritium, as you know, has a  
17 half-life of approximately twelve and one-half years, and decays to a point  
18 where it has to be replaced. This nation has already made the decision that  
19 we will continue to have a limited nuclear deterrent force and thus we will  
20 produce and continue to have a need for tritium. That means, therefore, that  
21 the decision facing the Department of Energy is not if we are going to produce  
22 tritium but how we are going to produce tritium. Now let me turn for a minute  
23 to cleanup. There is not a single issue more important to me and to my  
24 constituents here in this part of the state than ensuring that a rapid and  
25 effective cleanup of the nuclear legacy at Hanford. As a result, I would  
26 oppose any scheme that would threaten DOE funding of the Environmental  
27 Management programs. And since the Tri-Party Agreement is designed to ensure  
28 and protect cleanup funding, every decision, including this one here, should  
29 be made with those thoughts in mind. And it is for that reason that I support  
30 using FFTF as an interim for interim tritium production. And the reason is  
31 this, the options facing the Department are either dramatically more expensive  
32 than continuing with FFTF or they face Nonproliferation Treaty concerns.  
33 First, an accelerator would, by the Department's own figures, cost at least  
34 4.5 billion dollars (that's ten times what the FFTF costs would be under our  
35 scenario). Now, importantly this cost would come from the Department's  
36 budget; budget that has not been authorized. This means that the greatest  
37 threat to the Environmental Management funding is a large, relatively  
38 immediate drain of billions of dollars out of the budget. That's exactly what  
39 the consequences of having an accelerator instead of FFTF on an interim basis  
40 would do. Second, if a commercial reactor option is chosen, legislation must  
41 pass Congress authorizing this tremendous change in international  
42 nonproliferation policy. In my view, this is very unlikely. So finally, I  
43 will leave the obvious positive details of FFTF to speakers that will surely  
44 follow me tonight. But let me reiterate this point. Eliminating FFTF as an  
45 interim option for tritium production increases the risk of large cuts in the  
46 Department's budgets. Cuts that would, without question, negatively impact  
47 our cleanup efforts here at Hanford. Therefore, as the strongest supporter of  
48 cleanup funding, I urge that you keep this fact in mind as you are discussing  
49 this issue. Thank you very much.

002340

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Congressman. Thank you, Congressman Hastings. At each of the meetings we have had an alternative viewpoint to the proposal. Tonight Gerry Pollet and Tom Carpenter will share their time on that prospective.

Gerald Pollet:

I'm Gerry Pollet with the Heart of America Northwest. Let me start by recounting something that happened recently at a Hanford Advisory Board meeting. The Advisory Board was having a workshop on the future of Hanford cleanup and we looked forward, we looked back, and we sat around tables and mixed between public interest people like myself, and TRIDEC, and local government, and other local interests, State of Oregon. And at my table the question was asked for us to write down on cards what were the three most important things that had happened to further Hanford cleanup since 1989 when the Tri-Party Agreement was signed. And almost every person put down that the most important things that happened since 1989 weren't things that happened "per se" in cleanup, they were stopping production facilities; having them shut down so that they didn't produce more waste adding to the problems and more discharges to the ground and the air. And that is something very important to bear in mind in terms of the regional perspective tonight. This proposal frankly does threaten Hanford cleanup funding and it also threatens the regional unity needed to keep the focus on Hanford cleanup funding and it will greatly damage Hanford cleanup. It will produce more wastes. You'll hear about 66 metric tons of unstable, high-level nuclear wastes that will have to be stored. The import of 33 metric tons weapons-grade plutonium. The fact that right now, as we speak, we are spending 32 million dollars of our Hanford cleanup funding to keep FFTF on hot standby for the weapons mission. And you all know, I certainly know having lobbied long and hard for cleanup funding, including when it was not popular in this town, you know that the Department of Energy has capped cleanup funding, and will not even increase it for inflation over the next ten years. And its proposal for FFTF includes, starting next year, to take 32 million dollars base funding for FFTF out of the cleanup budget, shift it over to the Nuclear Energy budget, thereby breaking the commitment in the Tri-Party Agreement that when the FFTF was shut down those funds would be "available for higher priority environmental management activities." If we are going to talk about jobs, we need to work together to make sure Fluor-Daniel lives up to that commitment to create 2,000 new, high-paying (and I should say DOE did not do you all a favor when they forgot to put into family wage jobs in that contract; it just said 2,000 jobs). It's important that we bear in mind the stuff about interim is not what DOE's considering. DOE is only considering a 30-year tritium production mission. It may add on medical, but the primary mission is 30 years tritium production, and it is an add-on to either the accelerator or the commercial reactor; it is not an either/or. Congressman Hastings knows it's not an either/or. The Department of Energy says it cannot just get enough tritium for the demand you cited from this reactor.

Tom is going to talk about safety and I think there is a concern we all share and it is important that we hear about it.

1 Tom Carpenter:

2 My name is Tom Carpenter and I am the Director of the Seattle Office of the  
3 Government Accountability Project and we are also based in Washington, D.C.  
4 And we decided to take a look at what the scientists within the Department of  
5 Energy thought about the safety aspects of running the FFTF reactor and I'll  
6 share a few quotes with you although my time is very limited. The Office of  
7 Defense Programs wrote in a 1996 report that there is no time provided in the  
8 schedule to accommodate safety testing for this reactor. This is of great  
9 concern to the Government Accountability Project and I'm sure it should be of  
10 concern to residents in this area. The Office of Defense Programs admitted  
11 that the reactor could have a catastrophic meltdown and that there is no way  
12 to having one of two severe accident vulnerabilities. They warned that the  
13 risks of this reactor, I'll just read you this quote "I am convinced that the  
14 FFTF presents too many risks to warrant further investment or inquiry." This  
15 was a quote in a memo signed by Deputy Secretary Charles Curtis to  
16 Hazel O'Leary dated March 21, 1996. The FFTF startup time line does not allow  
17 for the public process and full safety review. There's not going to be any  
18 commercial review or commercial standards for this reactor. The Office of  
19 Defense Programs and the JASON report both raise some very, very serious  
20 concerns about the very, very compressed time line for getting this reactor up  
21 and going. And if you don't do it within five years, make tritium within  
22 five years, it really doesn't make sense. So we have great concerns about how  
23 this could impact this community and the Northwest. The safety has to come  
24 first in any reactor operation. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

27 Thank you, Tom. Thank you, Gerry and Tom. OK, that famous 15 minute  
28 clarification question session is here. I would ask that you step up to that  
29 mic if you can since we are recording the questions for a response. And  
30 again, let's try and whip through the responses quite briefly if we can so we  
31 can get to public comment. Could you state your name so that we can catch it  
32 on the tape?

33 Question #1 from audience:

34 Yes. My name is Teresa Mix and my question is: if the tritium mission goes to  
35 Savannah River, excuse me, where does the eight to 16 billion dollars come  
36 from in the DOE budget to build and test the unproven accelerator concept?  
37 Will the environmental cleanup budget be impacted? I'd like this answered for  
38 the record. Thank you.

40 Pat Serie:

41 Thanks. Ernie?

42 Ernie Hughes:

43 The Department of Energy currently has what's being termed a flat budget. All  
44 of the programs within the Department, whether they be defense, environmental,  
45 nuclear energy, energy renewal, whatever, all come out of that flat budget.  
46 If an accelerator is built, the billions of dollars will have to come out of  
47 the flat Department of Energy budget and other programs will have to  
48 contribute to the accelerator program.

1 Gerald Pollet:

2 Let me just put this in perspective. The only portion of the DOE budget that  
3 is being held flat right now, or being reduced, is the one that you all care  
4 about, the cleanup budget, the Environmental Management budget. And you are  
5 going to lose at this site; we're all going to lose a billion dollars in  
6 funding by the fact that between now and 2006 the Department of Energy has  
7 said they will not even ask for inflation. That's something of grave concern,  
8 but again, you need to remember FFTF is an add-on to either of the other  
9 tracks. The Savannah River proposal is now a 2 billion dollar accelerator  
10 that would also produce medical isotopes. We've heard that before; you wonder  
11 where that came from.

12  
13 Pat Serie:

14 Gerry, we need to keep it brief, please.

15  
16 Gerald Pollet:

17 So if you are going to build either the accelerator or you are going to  
18 produce tritium at the commercial reactors, either way, FFTF adds on some cost  
19 rather than helping you lower and shave costs.

20  
21 Pat Serie:

22 Congressman Hastings, would you like to comment on that as well?

23  
24 Doc Hastings:

25 Well, I'd like to make an observation here and it's something that I certainly  
26 have experienced in the time that I've served in Congress and that is the  
27 farther we get away from the second World War, the tougher it is to get  
28 dollars allocated and appropriated for cleanup. Now that's a fact, that's the  
29 way the situation is and so it becomes increasingly difficult as we go down  
30 the line to make sure, ensure that cleanup dollars are here to clean up  
31 Hanford. And we must do everything that we can to ensure that pot of money is  
32 there. The fact of the matter is, that if the accelerator is the first  
33 option, that money has not been authorized. If it has not been authorized,  
34 then where, logically, would the appropriations come from when Congress looks  
35 at that in the future? They're going to look at it out of the Department of  
36 Energy budget. Now, you couple that with the fact that we are getting farther  
37 and farther away of maintaining a constant supply of dollars for cleanup, and  
38 you can see that this would impact cleanup because that is the political will.  
39 It doesn't help frankly, for those that say that their primary goal is to  
40 ensure that cleanup dollars are available and then kind of come back in a  
41 roundabout way to obfuscate the issue and I think that in many cases this  
42 discussion of FFTF is starting that, frankly does that.

43  
44 Pat Serie:

45 Thank you. Sir, next question. Can you please state your name, please?

46  
47 Question #2 from audience:

48 My name is Ron Gouge and I have a question that kind of ties into that one  
49 that she just asked and that is: has there been a determination yet as to  
50 where the power source for the accelerator would come from and is that power

1 source figured into the estimated eight to 16 billion dollars that's paying  
2 for it, making the accelerator?

3  
4 Pat Serie:

5 Does anyone know the answer to that?

6  
7 Ernie Hughes:

8 My understanding is that if they built the full scale accelerator it requires  
9 its own individual 500-megawatt source of power. I do believe that the higher  
10 number that we had heard, the 12 billion dollar high side for the accelerator  
11 does include construction of a plant to provide that power.

12  
13 Pat Serie:

14 Thank you, Ernie. Yes, sir. Next question.

15  
16 Question #3 from audience:

17 Yes, my name is Mike Walter. It is good to see Doc here. I have a question  
18 for Gerald Pollet and then later on I will have a question for you also, Doc.  
19 Gerald, back in '94 there was a report from the Institute of Medicine  
20 recommending against the operations of FFTF. But since then, there was a  
21 change of mind with the Chairman of the Institute of Medical Reports to  
22 restart the FFTF. Why was that made, how, when, and all that? And my  
23 question for Doc is, are we mainly wanting to make medical isotopes or nuclear  
24 weapon isotopes? Thank you.

25  
26 Pat Serie:

27 Two questions. Gerry, would you like to take the first one?

28  
29 Gerald Pollet:

30 Good questions. First, I have no idea why the person changed their mind but I  
31 do know from the person who first blew the whistle on the ANMS proposals, who  
32 is in charge of recruiting names to be signed on to the letters pro-FFTF in  
33 nuclear medicine, that those people were never told that, in fact, it was  
34 primarily going to be a weapons production facility nor were they signing on  
35 to something that it was the only potential source. And there have been,  
36 well, in Seattle, the person who is the number one consumer of nuclear  
37 isotopes for medicine in the United States, who heads the UW program,  
38 testified that she believed there was no shortage. That the figures were over  
39 blown, and would require the justification produced on this Site would require  
40 that one out of every two people being treated for cancer receive  
41 radioisotopes when, in fact, the exact opposite trend is going that we are  
42 looking at, while there are some promising developments in radioisotopes, most  
43 work is going the other way in terms of treatment without radioisotopes.

44  
45 Pat Serie:

46 Thank you, Gerry. Congressman Hastings. The question of medical versus  
47 weapons.

002339



1 Doc Hastings:

2 Well, the unsolicited proposal that was given to the Department of Energy by  
3 ANMS, that was a proposal that obviously was to use tritium as an interim  
4 source, but primarily to look at medical isotopes. I think that from the  
5 conversation that I've had that those who are much more knowledgeable about  
6 the potential of FFTF in this regard, looks at the whole discussion and work  
7 on isotopes to obviously expand it beyond, and I'll leave it up to the  
8 scientists and those that know much more about this, as to where that can  
9 lead. But clearly, the start was of using medical isotopes. And it was also  
10 my understanding, and I hope somebody that does testify later on will confirm  
11 the fact, that only in the past couple of years, the work that has been done  
12 on this has grown not arithmetically, but in fact geometrically, and we don't  
13 know what's out there and for us to look at the potential of isotopes in a  
14 static model frankly is short sighted. I think we ought to allow with good  
15 science, with good science, where we ought to go and I think the potential of  
16 FFTF allows us to do that and that's why I think we should keep it going.

17  
18 Pat Serie:

19 Thank you, Congressman Hastings. Yes, another question.

20  
21 Question #4 from audience:

22 Cindi Laws and I'm commenting because as I understand it we are talking about  
23 changes to the Tri-Party Agreement. And we are now in the third hearing and I  
24 have only seen two of the agencies, so it appears to be just a Bi-Party  
25 Agreement. And I applaud Ernie and Jon, and Roger especially for listening  
26 until the wee hours of the morning in the last several hearings. Where is EPA  
27 in this? And how come you, Roger, are having to take all the heat for this?  
28 You are a bureaucrat. Where is the other half of the regulatory agency in  
29 this effort?

30  
31 Pat Serie:

32 Yeah, but he is a durable bureaucrat. Roger?

33  
34 Roger Stanley:

35 All of our efforts under the Tri-Party Agreement are worked on by one or the  
36 other regulatory agency and, in fact, we have an agreement between the EPA and  
37 the Department of Ecology, a separate agreement, that basically lays out the  
38 overall conditions. But because the state is the lead for this particular  
39 project, EPA is focusing its efforts elsewhere. When all is said and done,  
40 the final change request will still also have to be signed off by the Environ-  
41 mental Protection Agency as well, but we expect that they will take our lead.

42  
43 Pat Serie:

44 Thank you, Roger. Yes.

45  
46 Question #5 from audience:

47 My name is Annie Plantaric and I would appreciate a response from either  
48 Mr. Hughes or Mr. Hastings about this. In regards to Mr. Pollet's earlier  
49 statement that startup of FFTF would be in addition to either a commercial  
50 reactor or an accelerator. Is that correct? That regardless of what happens

with FFTF, an accelerator and all of the associated costs of an accelerator would happen regardless?

Doc Hastings:

There is no secret motivation to have FFTF be the permanent supplier of tritium. There will be (that's the other track) the permanent supplier of tritium will be at Savannah River; that decision has already been made. The decision is whether it's going to be an accelerator or going to be a commercial or something else that may be coming. I think that those that suggest that there is some sort of a conspiracy that at the back, at the bottom, at the end of the day, that this will be the permanent supplier of tritium is not really being truthful. Because there is from my standpoint and my conversations with my colleagues in Savannah River regarding FFTF, we are very up front about this. In fact, and I think the people here frankly look at FFTF, again, not primarily from a tritium producer but rather from an isotope producer in the commercial field, whether it is medical or otherwise as we talked about, so I view where we are going and where the debate ought to center on FFTF as an interim--underline, double underline, exclamation point--producer of tritium.

Gerald Pollet:

So the answer is, you're saying, yes. It will be in addition to the other facility and it will be part of a dual-track system, an engineered system, and its primary mission will remain for 20 to 30 years, part of that tritium supply system. That the entire economic justification right, is the only way that it is paid is if it is part of the reserve capacity backing up and producing part of the tritium supply for the 20 to 30 years.

Doc Hastings:

The reason for that is because the commercial viability of isotopes hasn't reached that level. You still need that interim bridge. If today, if today, it was commercially viable to produce isotopes, we would not be sitting here talking about tritium. That is a fact. Now, you can say that is not the motivation, but that is precisely, that is precisely where we are going. That is where this member is going.

Pat Serie:

Excuse me. Guys, we are not going to get into a debate. We want to respond to the questions and there are several more people. We've got about three more minutes. Sir, can you state your name, please?

Question #6 from audience:

I am Virgil Donovan. I am a former administrative engineer for the Atomic Energy Commission. During the time I worked for the Atomic Energy Commission, I was able to study the making of warheads in our headquarters group in Albuquerque and I spent time there. I would like to ask Doc how he arrived at the idea that we are locked into tritium in the warhead. We have a warhead now, at an average of 268 kilotons, well within fission warhead means, which don't require any tritium. We converted from fission warheads at the point of time in 1966 and '67 we were busy converting 19,000 strategic warheads over

1 into fusion warheads. It's past time to keep those fusion warheads because we  
2 aren't using that big a weapon anymore. It is time for Congress to make the  
3 decision and convert back to fission and there would be no need for tritium.

4  
5 Pat Serie:

6 I believe he is getting to his question ...

7  
8 Virgil Donovan:

9 I am asking a question and it is one that the Congressman should know about.

10  
11 Pat Serie:

12 The question is, what is the basis for his statement that there is a need for  
13 the tritium?

14  
15 Virgil Donovan:

16 No. The question, the basis is that there is no need for tritium. We need to  
17 go back to fission warheads.

18  
19 Pat Serie:

20 OK. So that is a comment. Congressman, would you like to respond?

21  
22 Virgil Donovan:

23 Every place we've used tritium it's cost money, it's damaged neighbors, and  
24 everything else.

25  
26 Pat Serie:

27 Let's let him respond, please.

28  
29 Doc Hastings:

30 Well, Virgil, I think that probably that's a judgment call whether we do or  
31 don't. We don't and I suppose that can be debated ...

32  
33 **END OF TAPE**

34  
35 Doc Hastings:

36 ... a strong deterrent to others that may decide to take on the United States.  
37 We are ending the end of the 20th century and there's been at least two, you  
38 could probably say three times that we were caught not prepared in this  
39 century. It seems to me that it is short sighted to suggest that we ought to  
40 lower now our military needs, even though I will acknowledge we are the super  
41 power. We are not involved in a cold war like we were for the second half of  
42 this century, but this is not to suggest, however, that the world is any  
43 safer. In fact, I think that the world potentially could be a lot more  
44 dangerous as a matter of fact. And I think it is incumbent upon us, as one  
45 member of Congress, I believe very, very strongly that one of the primary  
46 reasons for a federal government is to maintain a strong national defense and  
47 I think that from my understanding of how our weapons system is, we need  
48 tritium and we need to continue to produce tritium. And that is again, this  
is only on an interim basis here; we are not talking about permanent here.  
But that is the whole basis of this is the need for a strong national defense.

1 Pat Serie:

2 Thank you, Congressman Hastings and I'm sure, sir, that he would be happy to  
3 discuss it in more detail. We do need to get on to the two last questions,  
4 please. Ma'am?

5  
6 Question #7 from audience:

7 My name is Buella Maculley and I have two questions. The first one is, it was  
8 my understanding that even though you start up the FFTF again, that still  
9 won't be enough tritium to do the isotope thing. I'm not a scientist, but the  
10 government will still have to buy more tritium. Is that true?

11  
12 Ernie Hughes:

13 The quantity, the need, is a Department of Defense figure. And the need,  
14 that's a classified number. I can say, however, that FFTF will not produce  
15 the full amount that is needed to replenish. We can produce up to one and a  
16 half kilograms per year, but that's enough to defer the need for the larger  
17 source, either the accelerator or the commercial light water reactor, for a  
18 number of years out.

19  
20 Buella Maculley:

21 OK. Well, then my next question is, why are you using this relic out there or  
22 even considering it? Why are you not building a new one if that is ...

23  
24 Pat Serie:

25 OK. Ernie, can you respond?

26  
27 Ernie Hughes:

28 I would take issue with your characterization of a relic.

29  
30 Pat Serie:

31 Maybe you can take that in the comment period.

32  
33 Ernie Hughes:

34 FFTF was used for ten years. It has, we know, at least 22 years of useful  
35 life left. It's a function of the bombardment of the reactor shield. Well,  
36 it truly is a modern reactor by reactor standards. It was built to NRC  
37 standards. It's the best reactor in the Department of Energy, and it has many  
38 years of safe, useful life available to it.

39  
40 Pat Serie:

41 And I think that Ernie would happy to talk about that more in detail when we  
42 finish. We are going to take one last question. Must you? Quick.

43  
44 Tom Carpenter:

45 The one comment that I have is this is an experimental use for this reactor  
46 that's never been tested before to make tritium at these levels and at this  
47 plutonium fuel enrichment so the statements that you just made, Ernie, aren't  
48 about what FFTF used to do. I mean that, it's about what it used to do, not  
49 about what you are proposing. That's my viewpoint.

002341

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Tom. OK, last question, please.

Question #8 from audience:

It's two questions but they are quick. I first wanted to say that Doc Hastings said that he stated that this proposal was primarily for medical isotopes and yet I understand that there were some recently declassified documents that showed that there have been, that the Department of Energy was looking for reasons to restart the FFTF reactor. And that makes it seem to me that the real reason for starting the reactor is not primarily to be in production for medical isotopes. So, can you ...

Doc Hastings:

Well, I would simply say that is an interpretation that you would have. I was asked straightforward and I have been, of course, lived in this community for a number of years and others maybe want to read different things into what the proposals are, but believe it, keep in mind, keep in mind, the unsolicited proposal to the Department of Energy by a private firm was for medical isotopes. Were it not for, frankly that firm, to come forth and say there is a potential out here commercially, now how do we get from where we are to where it is commercially viable, obviously it took tritium. That was part of their proposal. Others I know started looking at that. Others have really in many ways confirmed that company's conclusion. And as a result of that potential, as a result of that potential I believe, medical science looks at the uses, potential uses, positive uses of isotopes and they say, hey this may work out so therefore you have more research dollars going in, which I think has extended, if you will, the potential for isotopes but the unsolicited ... Listen, FFTF was going to be shut down as you well know, until Secretary O'Leary looked at the data that was given by this firm and she concluded, yeah, there is a potential here. Now you may have a different interpretation of all this and you certainly have the right to that interpretation, but I believe that the potential to save lives with this new technology is worthwhile pursuing and we have an opportunity to do that, because again, as I said from the outset of my statement, the decision has already been made regarding tritium. This is just a bridge to that.

Gerald Pollet:

Well, Doc, the unsolicited proposal is dead. I was on the radio with Bill Stokes the other day; he's very critical of the fact that the Department of Energy is not serious about medical isotopes, that the primary mission is 30 years of tritium production and in order to do the medical isotope work you have to invest in medical research, which the Department of Energy is not doing and, you know, even his initial proposal was for an extended period of time of primary tritium production, but his proposal is dead. And what we now need to look at is, what is on the table in front of the Secretary of Energy? And you know, and I know, and this audience should know, is that what is on the table is 20 to 30 year primary tritium production mission ...

Pat Serie:

Gerry, we need to move on.

3 Gerald Pollet:

4 ... and part of the dual track as you yourself said, it's part of the dual  
5 track for that period of time.

002339

6 Pat Serie:

7 OK. Paige, I'm sorry. We are going to hold you to the one question rule  
8 because it is five to eight, OK, and we need to move on to public comment. We  
9 have approximately 61 people signed up for public comment. Thanks to the  
10 people in the panel for responding to questions. I know it's hard to both ask  
11 them quickly and respond quickly, but we really do want to hear from all of  
12 you who wish to give testimony. Again, anyone who still wants to, please go  
13 ahead and sign up out in front there. They are still taking names. We have  
14 made a practice at these meetings of asking elected officials who wish to give  
15 testimony to go first and we have three people tonight. The first is  
16 Ken Dobbin, Councilman from the City of West Richland. We'd like to ask him  
17 to go first, please.

18 Ken Dobbin:

19 Yes, good evening. We in West Richland regard public health and safety, and  
20 the quality of life, as our number one priority and so please take my comments  
21 in that light this evening. I'm speaking on behalf of the City of West  
22 Richland. We respectfully ask the United States Department of Energy to  
23 delete the current Fast Flux Test Facility transition milestones program and  
24 associated milestones from the Tri-Party Agreement. The facility is needed to  
25 produce medical isotopes, commercial isotopes, and for the defense. We can  
26 also get the country started transforming swords into plow shares by burning  
27 the excess weapons material. My testimony would logically cease at this point  
28 but the opponents in previous meetings have falsely testified about the  
29 capabilities, the need, the safety, and the capabilities of the FFTF. So I  
30 must set the record straight tonight. The FFTF is needed to supply the  
31 quantity and quality of medical isotopes required for the new cell-directed  
32 cancer therapy techniques. I certainly don't know what the FFTF opponent's  
33 agenda are, but certainly they don't have the saving of life in mind. For we  
34 know that 560,000 Americans die of cancer every year. That's 1,500 per day,  
35 that's one per minute, and every hour another child gets cancer, and every  
36 five hours a child dies of it. Secondly, the FFTF has unparalleled safety  
37 features. I was part of the engineering team that conducted many tests during  
38 the ten years of flawless operation. We proved its safety and calibrated our  
39 calculational techniques. Under the worse case hypothetical situation, the  
40 FFTF containment would not be challenged and no member of the public would be  
41 killed. I challenge Senator Wyden to tell me that about the nerve gas stored  
42 in Umatilla. Do the FFTF opponents tell you about the safety record? No,  
43 they take freedom of information, technical information they don't understand,  
44 and then they use it to make false statements. We heard it in Portland, we  
45 heard it in Seattle. The actions, what their actions are telling us, is that  
46 they seem to say let the cancer patients die. Thirdly, the FFTF is the least  
47 expensive option. That has been mentioned here previously. The, between the  
48 other options, the accelerator or the commercial reactor operation, because  
49 the DOE has a fixed budget and Congress is not likely to increase it. That  
50 was discussed here earlier; the additional information, the additional dollars

002342

1 that would have to be used would come out of cleanup money and I don't want to  
2 go through that again. Congressman Doc Hastings explained that. So here, in  
3 that issue, the stealing of cleanup money, I don't think that the opponents  
4 really believe their own statements because they refuse to endorse a private  
5 proposal back when it was proposed that would actually use private dollars to  
6 do this. That would take the reactor completely out of the cleanup budget  
7 altogether. Once again, the opponents are saying let the cancer patients die.  
8 But I don't want to see them die. That is why I am here tonight refuting  
9 their false testimony. We must remove the FFTF from the TPA milestone list  
10 and get the facility started producing medical isotopes. One in three  
11 Americans will get cancer in their lifetime and we need the FFTF and  
12 cell-directed therapy in that fight. The failure to restart this facility is  
13 not an option.  
14

15 Pat Serie:

16 We have Mayor Peltier from the City of West Richland.  
17

18 Jerry Peltier:

19 Thank you. My comments tonight should be brief. Ken Dobbin's on my Council  
20 has already covered the technical aspects of the restart. I think we need to  
21 really need to think about the Tri-Cities. What is the Tri-Cities about right  
22 now? What are we trying to do in the Tri-Cities? We are trying to diversify  
23 our economy. We are trying to produce or have economic development. TRIDEC  
24 is working very hard on that. We are trying to get out of the reliance on the  
25 government. I think that's our goal, but what is our technology base here?  
26 Our technology base is nuclear power, nuclear energy, nuclear research,  
27 science. That's what we are. Unfortunately that's what we are, or  
28 fortunately that's what we are, whatever you want to look at. Are we going to  
29 clean up Hanford and shut the community down and move to other cities to work?  
30 I don't think that's what we are all about. I think we want to promote what  
31 we know best. FFTF is an opportunity to do that. It's an opportunity to  
32 transition into something that can produce medical isotopes. What is the  
33 value of medical isotopes? You've already heard. What does it mean to the  
34 community? It means research centers, treatment centers, many of those  
35 medical isotopes only have a 24 hour half-life. If people want to be treated,  
36 they have to come here. Let's really narrow it down to what we are talking  
37 about. There isn't any decision on the Tri-Party Agreement; the decision has  
38 already been made. It was made by Hazel O'Leary. She put it on hold; we  
39 can't make the milestones. I encourage the Department of Ecology to delete  
40 those milestones because they are no longer applicable and they cannot be  
41 achieved. What are you going to do? Leave them in and then hold our feet to  
42 the fire and criticize our performance because we didn't make them in another  
43 year or so? Be realistic. The Department of Energy made the decision, we  
44 need to no longer rely on these milestones and get them out of the Tri-Party  
45 Agreement. Unfortunately, these public hearings in Seattle and Portland have  
46 been turned into a forum for the restart of FFTF. Lies, innuendo, theatrics,  
47 you name it; it's all been presented. We are a community that is based on  
48 science, technology, research, facts, analysis. Let us do the technology  
49 research, let us analyze the conditions, let us go through the environmental  
50 impact process and determine, through science and technology, if FFTF is a

002343

1 viable option or not. But don't use a political forum such as this based on  
2 innuendos to make a decision that will hurt us and the lives of our fellow  
3 citizens in the future. Again, this mission is about saving lives,  
4 transitioning a technology that was built to kill mankind into saving mankind.  
5 Let's not miss or pass up that opportunity. Thank you.  
6

7 Pat Serie:

8 Thank you, Mayor Peltier. And we have Robert Noland with a statement on the  
9 behalf of the City of Kennewick.  
10

11 Robert Noland:

12 Good evening. Just a very brief statement. The City of Kennewick supports  
13 the proposal to modify the Tri-Party Agreement by deleting the current Fast  
14 Flux Test Facility transition milestones from the scope of the Tri-Party  
15 Agreement. And the City of Kennewick also supports the concept of using FFTF  
16 for an interim tritium production mission. In addition to the benefit of  
17 producing a variety of isotopes for medical purposes, the use of FFTF would  
18 defer billions of dollars of construction costs on a new facility, leaving  
19 more funding available for environmental cleanup. The City of Kennewick is as  
20 concerned as any interest group with the cleanup mission at Hanford. Thank  
21 you.  
22

23 Pat Serie:

24 OK. Here's how we are going to proceed. I will call the name of the next  
25 person up and then the three people after that, that are going to be in the  
26 "bull pen" so to speak. We would ask those next three people to go ahead and  
27 line up so that we can move through as quickly as possible. Frank has said  
28 that he can't hear me call the names on the record if the applause goes on too  
29 long, so I'm going to pause but in the interest of getting through our  
30 61 people, we'll want to move people through pretty quickly. Our first  
31 speaker is Gerald Woodcock. Mr. Woodcock will be followed by Harold Anderson,  
32 Ruth Yarrow, and Sheryl Paglieri. Again let me remind you, if you are  
33 speaking on behalf of an organization, we've allotted five minutes and we'd  
34 like just one person representing the organization. Each individual should  
35 limit their comments to three minutes, please. Mr. Woodcock  
36

37 Gerald Woodcock:

38 Thank you very much. My name is Gerry Woodcock and I am representing the  
39 Eastern Washington section of the American Nuclear Society this evening. I've  
40 lived and worked here for 24 years. I'm not a scientist although my job title  
41 is Engineer, I'm actually an MBA, which means that I make my living analyzing  
42 things. When you have no currency in logic and rationality in defensible  
43 scientific evidence, you are, I suppose, compelled to either yield or resort  
44 to whistles, sirens, funny clothing, and worst of all, gross distortion  
45 misrepresentation of facts, and out-right lies in attempting to sway public  
46 opinion. Today's editorial in the Tri-City Herald got it right when it took  
47 the anti-FFTF radicals to task for their deplorable tactics. These people  
48 would have the public believe that this battle is about bombs. It isn't. It  
49 has absolutely nothing to do with bombs. Whether tritium is required is not a  
50 decision which is made here in the Tri-Cities, or in Washington state, or even



1 in the Northwest. It was made in Washington, D.C. by people who understand a  
2 lot more about what it takes to defend our country than a bunch of noisy  
3 demonstrators who fail to even recognize others' rights to speak. There are  
4 two issues here. The first is, given the decision to produce tritium, how can  
5 it be done with the least cost to us, all of us, the taxpayers, the people who  
6 have to foot the bill for the program? The answer is FFTF. The second and  
7 perhaps even more important question is, where are the medical isotopes going  
8 to come from to satisfy an ever-widening spectrum of demands by the medical  
9 community for the diagnostic and therapeutic tools which are now, and into the  
10 future, holding the greatest promise of alleviating pain and suffering,  
11 diagnosing a lengthening list of human disorders, and affording the best  
12 possible chance of finding cures for many of the most dreaded disease of our  
13 time. Those who say we have an ample supply of isotopes are wrong. Period.  
14 We have letters from around the country and the world asking, sometimes  
15 desperately, for the isotopes which this machine can produce in greater  
16 quantities and purities than just about any other source. If you don't  
17 believe that, wait until several people who work in this field and deal with  
18 these requests on a daily basis speak to you later on this evening. Better  
19 yet, talk to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. Also, talk to someone who has  
20 a loved one battling cancer, or is doing so themselves, or who has lost a  
21 loved one to cancer. FFTF is safe. There is no postulated accident which  
22 could breach containment and harm the public. It will not take cleanup  
23 dollars and anyone who says it will either hasn't his homework or is  
24 deliberately doing what the editorial says he is doing, lying to you. You  
25 must ask yourself if you want these kinds of decisions being influenced by  
26 people with known track records of prevarication, misrepresentation,  
27 distortion, and disregard for the rights of others. They have one single  
28 agenda item and it has nothing to do with what is best for the tens of  
29 thousands of patients whose very lives depend on an increasing supply of  
30 medical isotopes. It also has nothing to do with what is best for the  
31 American taxpayer and that's all of us. It has everything to do with paranoia  
32 and perhaps even an attempt to cripple this country's defenses. There is a  
33 word in the dictionary for that too. Incidentally, if you think tritium is  
34 dangerous, check the next exit light that you walk under. If it doesn't have  
35 its own power supply, it's powered by tritium. The--eliminate all shutdown  
36 milestones. Thank you very much.

37  
38 Pat Serie:

39 Thank you, Mr. Woodcock. Mr. Anderson. I have just learned, and we'll let  
40 Mr. Anderson go ahead, that someone from Senator Slade Gorton's office is here  
41 to read a statement as well, and I hadn't realized that, so when Mr. Anderson  
42 is finished, Ms. Heaston, if you would like to come up next; that would be  
43 wonderful. Please go ahead.

44  
45 Harold Anderson:

46 Good evening. I'm here to support the deletion of the milestones and I've  
47 collected my thoughts under three main headings. One is let us put aside fear  
48 mongering; the second is that I support the politicians of Washington state in  
49 both Olympia and Washington, D.C. where they have been united in supporting  
50 production medical isotopes for the long term; and thirdly, that we shouldn't

002346

throw the baby out with the wash. And the baby is FFTF and the wash is environmental cleanup. Under putting aside fear mongering, I believe in peace through strength, which means maintaining our weapons by replacing the small part that time plus the twelve year tritium half-life diminishes. I believe in peace of mind through engineering design and we could say that every one of your automobiles that you came in tonight, most of you I assume came in one, could blow up because of the gasoline in the fuel tank. But I bet there's not one person who's not eager to go home in that same vehicle even if someone told you that it could explode. So the FFTF is a late technology liquid-metal cooled reactor. The sodium could blow up just like we've seen the little particles most of us in our chemistry class dance around in the water because it's reacting but by design, just like your automobile, that's a very unlikely event. And I have peace of mind through over 4,000 shifts that I have spent by or in the FFTF plant, over 1,000 of which were at full power of about 400 megawatts. I have peace of mind through the prospect of developing medical isotopes because I want to help the terminally ill, to help relieve those who have chronic pain, especially from bone cancer, and I'd like to help with diagnosing health problems early. On the second point, ...

Pat Serie:

Mr. Anderson, one more minute.

Harold Anderson:

One more minute? I want to thank Governor Locke, Senators Gorton and Murray, Congressman Hastings, Nethercutt, and many more down to the county and city levels for their support of FFTF and medical isotope production. FFTF is, and finally on the topic of not throwing the baby out with the wash; FFTF is a new generation of reactor, post World War II, built near the end of the cold war. It does not insult the environment, that is not the river, nor the groundwater, nor the soil, nor the air. It was meant for developing peacetime electrical power generation. We the taxpayers bought it and we should get our money's worth. The figures have already been put out, it's about 425 million dollars to prepare it to develop tritium short term and medical isotopes long term. First, it's the accelerator which is three billion dollars in my figure, by I defer to Doc Hastings figure of 4.5 billion dollars and someone else's figure of 12 billion dollars. The FFTF can produce a kilogram and a half per year of tritium while producing a valuable supply of medical isotopes simultaneously. And finally, let us therefore put it to use making tritium short term and medical isotopes long term. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Anderson.

Suzanne Heaston:

Good evening. I'm Suzanne Heaston, staff assistant for Senator Gorton here in Kennewick, and I'd like to read to you a letter that Senator Gorton sent to Secretary Peña in November.

Dear Secretary,

Today we face the challenge of budgeting and appropriating limited funds for almost unlimited competing demands. Occasionally we are able to identify an option that not only satisfies the multiple competing priorities, but also provides a significant cost savings. That is why I have been and remain a strong supporter for restarting the Hanford Fast Flux Test Facility for interim production of tritium for national defense, as well as for the production of medical isotopes for therapeutic and/or diagnostic applications. I know that you visited Hanford and the FFTF this summer and I hoped you were as impressed as I was with the facility and its staff, as well as the potential that facility has to:

1. Provide an interim supply of tritium that minimizes the need for new funding outlays, can be implemented without controversial legislation, provides flexibility given uncertainty in the future stockpile demands, and utilizes an existing Department of Energy resource with a demonstrated history of safe and environmentally compliant operation.
2. Provide an increasing supply of medical isotopes for new and important therapeutic and diagnostic applications. Developing and ensuring such a supply may be one of the greatest long-term contributions the department can make today to the overall welfare of the American people, and
3. Dispose of excess plutonium stockpile material by use of mixed-oxide fuel.

I believe strongly that the best approach the department can take is to formally involve stakeholders and the general public in any decision about FFTF's future by initiating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Such a step would ensure that further consideration of the FFTF is consistent with the department's schedule for a decision on future tritium production.

Additionally, based on my recent meetings with my constituents, initiating the NEPA process would satisfy both proponents and opponents of restart who both desire formal, public involvement that would come with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. I urge you to begin the NEPA process for FFTF and if there is anything I can do to help with your decision or its implementation, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Slade Gorton  
U.S. Senator

Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Ms. Heaston. OK. Ruth Yarrow, and she'll be followed by Sheryl Paglieri, R. Burk, and J.N. Paglieri. Please be ready.

1 Ruth Yarrow:

2 Good evening. I am Ruth Yarrow and I am speaking on behalf of the Washington  
3 Physicians for Social Responsibility. We would like to oppose any change in  
4 the TPA, any lifting of the FFTF cleanup milestones. I would like to speak  
5 about what concerns us all, jobs and public health.  
6

7 First on jobs. Lifting cleanup milestones to facilitate FFTF restart to  
8 create jobs is a poor reason to unravel the TPA. With the enormous cleanup  
9 challenges at Hanford, the doctor's prescription for public health, for  
10 generations to come, is that many skilled people keep working on cleanup. And  
11 if we all lobby Congress hard enough, we can get the funds to do that.  
12

13 On public health, the legacy of the cold war at Hanford threatens public  
14 health in the entire Northwest. Two-thirds of the nation's highly radioactive  
15 wastes sits here in over 170 tanks. One-third of those tanks leak and as we  
16 all know, the plumes of contaminated water are headed towards the Columbia,  
17 and that the recent explosion points to greater risks ahead. We believe it  
18 would be a mistake to restart a reactor and create new radioactive waste  
19 streams without considering all the implications, especially those concerning  
20 the health of Northwest residents.  
21

22 We feel that our state shouldn't encourage further nuclear weapons production  
23 by agreeing to waive the TPA milestones for the FFTF. Funding for nuclear  
24 weapons production has been increasing. And you can see that on this graph up  
25 here and that in 1998 the funds for environmental management, including  
26 cleanup, are almost at the defense level. In other words, we need to really  
27 lobby hard to make sure that our cleanup continues. This is a clear shift in  
28 priorities away from cleanup and for public health now and in the future.  
29 WPSR (Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility) and the Washington  
30 State Medical Association oppose the FFTF lifting of milestones. One of the  
31 reasons that's given for the restart is tritium production. It is clear that  
32 we don't need more tritium production. Shown here on this overhead is the  
33 current state of tritium recycling capabilities. At the top are the current  
34 warhead levels. Under START I, and if we proceed to START II and to  
35 START III, we won't need more tritium because we can recycle what we have. If  
36 the tritium supply, if we reach START II, you can see the tritium supply would  
37 last until 2015, if we reach START III, it would last until 2025. A recent  
38 National Academy of Sciences study concluded that only 100 to 150 nuclear  
39 weapons would be completely adequate to maintain our deterrence posture.  
40 That's between START III and what you see down there on the bottom, the  
41 Nonproliferation Treaty, which has already been signed and ratified. In other  
42 words, we don't need more tritium production at FFTF or anywhere else.  
43

44 The other reason given for FFTF restart is production of medical isotopes.  
45 We're of course strongly in favor of effective cancer treatment, diagnosis,  
46 and therapy and we are strongly opposed to the restart at the same time  
47 because the Institute of Medicine Federal Advisory Panel found no grounds to  
48 recommend that reactors such as Fast Flux produce medical isotopes and called  
49 the market analysis used by the facilities' backers speculative at best. This  
50 week, Dr. Janet Eary of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at the University of

1 Washington stated, "We have one of the largest programs in the nation and  
2 perhaps in the world, in experimental therapy using radioisotopes. I find I  
3 don't have any problem receiving the medical isotopes I require." This is a  
4 person, top in the field. Dr. Kenneth Krohn, Director of Radiochemistry  
5 Research at the University of Washington stated, "I do not see anything that  
6 can be produced that's particularly unique to this facility," meaning the  
7 FFTF. "There are adequate sources for these radionuclides." Washington  
8 Physicians for Social Responsibility concludes that medical isotopes are being  
9 used as a smokescreen to disguise the tritium mission for FFTF. The FFTF  
10 should be shut down and cleaned up. Thank you very much.  
11

12 Pat Serie:

13 Thank you, Ms. Yarrow. Sheryl Paglieri will be followed by R. Burk,  
14 J.N. Paglieri, and Gary Troyer, please.  
15

16 Sheryl Paglieri:

17 Sheryl Paglieri, housewife, Richland. Like many people, we have lost both  
18 relatives and neighbors to cancer. Also we have some relatives and neighbors  
19 who are currently dying of cancer. One person in three will get cancer in  
20 their lifetime. Three out of four families are affected by cancer and more  
21 than a half million people will die of cancer in the United States in 1998  
22 based on information from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Institute. There are a  
23 number of medical isotopes that show great promise in treating cancer and  
24 other diseases. For example, the magic bullet treatment that seeks out and  
25 destroys cancer cells. However, without FFTF, many of the isotopes and  
26 treatments will not be available. The annual expense of operating FFTF is  
27 less than one tenth of one percent of the 104 billion dollar cost of cancer in  
28 the United States. FFTF is needed and can safely carry out a triple mission  
29 of medical isotope production, making tritium for defense and other needs, and  
30 reducing the stockpile of weapons-grade plutonium. Consequently, the cleanup  
31 requirements on FFTF should be deleted from the Tri-City Party Agreement. A  
32 favorable decision on FFTF is of great importance to the health and well-being  
33 of our nation, neighbors, children, and grandchildren.  
34

35 Pat Serie:

36 Next is R. Burk. Mr. Burk, thank you. Then we will have J.N. Paglieri,  
37 Gary Troyer, and Staci Mix, please.  
38

39 Robert Burk:

40 My name is Robert Burk. I'm a professional mechanical engineer registered in  
41 Washington state. I'll read for you from the TPA agreement in principle  
42 signed by all three agencies, even the one not present tonight on  
43 January 17, 1995. On July 18, 1994, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S.  
44 Department Environmental Protection Agency, the Washington State Department of  
45 Ecology agreed to enter into formal negotiations on matters relating to the  
46 Hanford facility transition activities as provided for under subsection 3.1 of  
47 the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (the Tri-Party  
48 Agreement Action Plan). The parties agreed to a common goal that facilities  
49 not required for future operations be transitioned in an expeditious manner to  
50 a safe, stable, and cost-effective surveillance and maintenance condition. As

we can see, this agreement covers facilities not required for future operations. In a memorandum dated July 17, 1997, (two years to the day after this Tri-Party Agreement in principle was signed) the Secretary of Energy directed the Fast Flux Test Facility be maintained in a hot standby condition recognizing that this condition would "defer the previous Secretarial decision and schedule regarding the shutdown of the Fast Flux Test Facility." This memorandum from the Secretary identified a potential future use for the FFTF and, as I read from the TPA agreement in principle, automatically removed FFTF related activities from the purview of the TPA since a potential future activity for the facility had been identified. Further, the Secretary had a right to make this decision because the FFTF is a DOE-owned facility. However there are more compelling evidence that the Secretary made a technically and economically sound decision.

The Fast Flux Test Facility in its ten years of operation amassed safety and performance records that have not been surpassed in the DOE complex. This performance was recognized nationally. In 1983, the National Society of Professional Engineers awarded an outstanding engineering achievement award to the facility. In 1987, after completing a year with a 100 percent operational efficiency factor, the American Nuclear Society gave the facility the ANS Award for Meritorious Performance of reactor operations. In 1988, the reactor ran for 126 consecutive days at full power, and achieved 78 percent capacity factor while performing numerous experiences, experiments for international customers. In 1992, the National Endowment for the Arts gave the facility the Presidential Design Award, recognizing the inherent safety features, superb design, and flawless performance of the FFTF. It was the right decision to place the FFTF in standby because it would have been a waste of the taxpayers' money to dismantle this valuable resource if it could be used for some other necessary purpose. In the interest of fairness and equal time, I feel obligated to provide a complete quotation that the organizations and individuals opposed to the use of the FFTF have twisted to suit their agenda. The JASON report in the Executive Summary said, before 1.5 kilograms per year tritium production can begin, careful testing of the plutonium-enriched mixed oxide fuel, and of an end core lithium illuminate target assembly of the FFTF will be necessary while it is operating on the 1 kilogram per year production mode. However, (this is the sentence you've never heard), however, we do not consider this required development to be technically challenging and we are reasonably confident that the FFTF can achieve a 1.5 kilograms per year tritium production rate. The overwhelming majority in this auditorium support the proposed changes to the FFTF's Tri-Party Agreement milestones, as do I. This majority also supports tritium and medical isotope production at the FFTF. Because it is impossible for all of you to speak tonight I'd like everyone who supports the FFTF to join me and show that support by a round of applause.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Burk. We have J.N. Paglieri followed by Gary Troyer, Staci Mix, and Grant McCalmant, please.

James Paglieri:

James Paglieri, engineer, Richland. I am speaking as a private citizen. FFTF is a unique and virtually irreplaceable multi-billion dollar national asset. FFTF can produce the largest variety and quantity of many isotopes of any facility in the western hemisphere. There is currently an acute shortage of a number of medical isotopes such that even some very promising cancer clinical trials cannot be completed. Without increased supplies of medical isotopes from FFTF, some new lifesaving nuclear medicine treatments will not be available. These statements on the storage of isotopes, and the need for FFTF, were also stated in the November 27, 1997, letter from the Nuclear Medicine Research Council to Secretary of Energy Peña. The letter was signed by a number of nuclear medicine experts and includes many who are nationally and some internationally known. Fourteen M.D.s from a number of eminent universities and cancer centers across the country, two Nobel Laureates, and others. The letter is attached to my comments.

002351

FFTF can produce tritium on an interim basis much sooner, and at far less cost to taxpayers, than other options. Also, the urgent need to see a positive example, to set a positive example for other countries by quickly beginning to reduce the nation's stockpile of weapons-grade plutonium can be initiated by FFTF much sooner than the schedule for other options. Also, FFTF is virtually the only reactor in the world that can carry out nuclear waste conversion experiments that have the potential to significantly reduce nuclear waste hazards and cleanup storage costs, including Hanford. In addition, plutonium-238, which is needed as a power source and has been required and used on more than 40 space missions, has to be purchased from Russia because without FFTF there is not an adequate U.S. supply.

In conclusion, or one more thing here, FFTF has a distinguished record with demonstrated excellence in design, operation safety, and meeting milestones. The Japanese equivalent of the Wall Street Journal stated that the FFTF is one of the few centers of excellence in the world. In summary, FFTF has many years of potential life remaining, and can safely and efficiently carry out many missions, a number of which cannot be carried out by any other existing or planned U.S. facility. FFTF is needed to carry out the triple mission of medical isotope production, interim production of tritium for defense and medical applications, and to reduce the amount of weapons-grade plutonium. Consequently, it is imperative that the FFTF cleanup requirements be deleted from the Tri-Party Agreement. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Paglieri. Gary Troyer. OK, Mr. Troyer great. And then we have Staci Mix, Grant McCalmant, and Paige Leven, please.

Gary Troyer:

Thank you. I am Gary Troyer, city of Richland resident and a nuclear chemist. My purpose with this statement is to support the use of the Fast Flux Test Facility for the production of medical isotopes and its removal from the umbrella of the Tri-Party Agreement. The FFTF was built by taxpayer monies to test safety aspects of systems and materials for plutonium-burning reactors.

002352

Other nations have recognized its utility and have explored ways of participating in its use. The FFTF also has unique advantage for certain isotope production. The nature of its internal radiation always allows certain isotopes either exclusively or more efficiently than other sources; thus, the FFTF opens the door beyond existing sources. Medical isotopes are a potential silver bullet in the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and cancer respectively. I am really concerned about the logic processes of certain critics who wish to deny such advances. The University of Washington, Nuclear Medicine Professor Eary has totally misrepresented her profession in denying the need. A segment of breast cancer research has been halted for lack of the special isotopes. Others at this forum have invoked President Eisenhower's warning about military and industrial complex. He also had to vision to start the interstate highway system and to promote the Atoms for Peace Program. Professor Eary's work is an outgrowth of that vision. It is surprising that she cannot recognize that. If that is the case, maybe she isn't the expert she claims to be. If she does recognize it, I leave it to your choice of what that means. My wife and I have five grandchildren that continue to get hugs from their grandmother. This might not ...

END OF TAPE

Gary Troyer:

... that a perception, several books have been written. Dr. Bernard Cohen, Dr. Alan Waltar, who is here in this audience, will show that this technology outperforms any comparable human endeavor. For example, our country spends 1.1 billion dollars in medical benefits annually for black lung disease. There are 175,000 recipients with 8,000 being added every year. That prognosis? Not very good. There is no comparable statistic for nuclear technology except for the positive in lives saved through nuclear medicine or living standards supported through nuclear energy. Thank you. The FFTF uses no cooling water and emits no greenhouse gases. Compare that to the plume coming from our southern neighbor with the Boardman coal-fired electric plant. Gases fly, ashes, and heavy metals, and oh gosh forbid, radioactivity. It's there, folks. As a further anecdote on safety and the concerns espoused by critics, I have personally observed the leader of Heart of America covering up the only available fire extinguisher in a public meeting room with an erroneous propaganda poster. Perhaps one protest too much. As the plutonium burn of the FFTF spent fuel is unavailable for defense, two aspects are covered in this. First, the cross fertilization of the advanced material in the private sector is already been accomplished regardless of treaties. Remember that their original mission was to test systems for commercial application. Secondly, it is used to provide a way of disposing of our excess plutonium inventory without just throwing it down a hole. This inventory is a national treasure which the taxpayers own. They should get the maximum utility out of it. What better way to use our nation's most advanced nuclear technology resource? These positive uses are not compatible with the TPA milestones that throw it away. For this reason, I fully support the removal of FFTF from the TPA umbrella and encourage the use of the FFTF for the betterment of our citizens. Thank you.

002352



1 Pat Serie:

2 Thank you, sir. Staci Mix. After Ms. Mix, we will have Grant McCalmant,  
3 Paige Leven, and William Madia, please.  
4

5 Staci Mix:

6 My name is Staci Mix and I am a resident of Richland. I often wonder what  
7 kind of world my generation will inherit. Will the United States be a free  
8 country where the people can make the decisions or will it be a country where  
9 citizens risk their lives trying to escape? And the thought of war, any war,  
10 whether it is nuclear, biological, or chemical absolutely terrifies me. I do  
11 believe, however, that a strong defense is a good offense. But that is not  
12 what we are here to discuss tonight. I have a picture of my baby cousin with  
13 me. He is so precious. He was born ten weeks early with a rare disease;  
14 there are only 35 documented cases in the United States. The name of the  
15 disease is too long and complicated for me to try to pronounce and the effects  
16 are so hideous that my family prefers not to think about them. It is enough  
17 to say that he has a brain tumor and he will die. Could the medical isotopes  
18 produced at the FFTF cure him? Could a scientific breakthrough occur so that  
19 no one else will ever suffer the same fate? I don't know, but can we deny  
20 ourselves the chance? But that is not why we are here to discuss this. We  
21 are here to discuss the proposed changes to the Tri-Party arrangement; changes  
22 that only make sense. The FFTF is in standby; the milestones cannot be met.  
23 Why jeopardize the agreement by having missed milestones? Why jeopardize the  
24 health and safety of the workers and the communities by forcing them to try to  
25 meet the milestones? I support the removal of the FFTF from the Tri-Party  
26 Agreement. Yes, these are my words and yes, I know what they mean. Thank  
27 you.  
28

29 Pat Serie:

30 Thank you. Thank you. Mr. McCalmant will be followed by Paige Leven,  
31 William Madia, and Dennis Brendel, please.  
32

33 Grant McCalmant:

34 My name is Grant McCalmant and I am an Occupational Safety Health Education  
35 Coordinator for the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International. I  
36 currently work out at the 222-S Labs. There, I don't think there is anyone  
37 out at Hanford that wants to create a nuclear bomb as a worker. But if it  
38 needs to be done, we feel FFTF, well not really feel, we know FFTF can do it  
39 safely and cheaper than any other site in the United States. We've proven the  
40 safety record at FFTF. We've developed medical isotopes there before at  
41 higher and greater quantities and purities than other sites. There is  
42 documented cases from previous speakers of medical isotopes not being created,  
43 research that copper for breast cancer has been stopped because of lack of  
44 isotopes. Forty percent of all hospital patients undergo diagnostic treatment  
45 with radiation or isotopes. Do you want your health care to depend on foreign  
46 markets like we did in the '70s for oil? Right now, most of our isotopes come  
47 out of Canada or France. If we develop them here domestically we can cut an  
48 average cancer patients bill from \$5 to \$8,000. And if we, as some of these  
49 isotopes come out of research stage and become production, get approved by  
50 FDA, there is going to be more demand for them than there is now because more

1 hospitals will want to use them. I don't think the University of Washington  
2 took that into consideration when she made her speech the other night in  
3 Seattle. The production of medical isotopes will also pay for about  
4 60 percent of the reactor operating costs. This is in the documentation. We  
5 can cut costs of this plus there was an interest from Japan a few years ago to  
6 use part of FFTF for research and development but their whole study was, that  
7 was they had to foot the whole bill but with medical isotopes, maybe they can  
8 do it and we don't have to depend on tritium. Thank you for your time.  
9

10 Pat Serie:

11 Thank you, Mr. McCalmant. Ms. Leven will be followed by William Madia,  
12 Dennis Brendel, and Darnell Severence, please.  
13

14 Paige Leven:

002355

15 Hi there. My name is Paige Leven and I am here to speak out against the  
16 decision by the Department of Ecology to delete the milestones for shutdown  
17 and cleanup of the FFTF reactor. This choice would only pave the way for the  
18 restart of the dangerous FFTF reactor by shirking the Ecology's responsibility  
19 to hold the DOE to its previous cleanup commitments. I am opposed to the  
20 restart of the FFTF reactor for a number of reasons that include safety risks.  
21 The risks here are unnerving as have been documented by Department of Energy's  
22 own internal documents. I strongly oppose any move that's going to increase  
23 contamination and divert resources away from a cleanup; from cleanup at a time  
24 when the Department of Energy is already struggling to reach the commitments  
25 that they've made and cleanup currently is elusive. Furthermore, I am  
26 disturbed by the need to import plutonium to coincide with this plan. It  
27 seems to me that if the need to import plutonium coincides with the restart of  
28 the FFTF reactor, anyone who says that the worst case scenario does not  
29 include disaster or death is obviously not including consideration of the  
30 problems that go along with transporting plutonium. So all of these risks,  
31 all for what? Maybe, possibly, someday, there might be some medical isotopes  
32 that could be possibly used for a market that isn't there. Don't be fooled.  
33 Right now, this is nothing more than a smokescreen to appeal to hard-working  
34 people like you in the Tri-Cities who really desire to be working for  
35 something as wonderful sounding as creating medical isotopes. That is a very  
36 admirable thing to want to work for. However, it's nothing more than a  
37 smokescreen and the truth is that these isotopes are not needed. This truth  
38 has been verified by Dr. Janet Eary who is the Director of UW's Nuclear  
39 Medical Department and top of her field. She has stated that there is not a  
40 shortage of medical isotopes. Her co-worker, Dr. Ken Krohn calls the idea  
41 that we will need a new source for medical isotopes exaggerated and even  
42 exceedingly ambitious. The Washington State Medical Association opposes the  
43 FFTF restart for similar reasons. We are talking about the experts here.  
44 These are medical doctors, experts, leaders in their field who don't have  
45 personal stake in this decision. They are unlike the public relations  
46 professionals that are marketing FFTF whose concerns are driven by financial  
47 motivations. They have financial incentives for trying to promote the idea  
48 that these medical isotopes are needed. The doctors tell us about the lack of  
49 the need for medical isotopes because that is true. You ask us for experts,  
50 we show you experts who say there is no need out there. You ask for people

1 who have personally been affected by the cancer issue. My father passed away  
2 from cancer just two years ago, my uncle last year, and I defer to the experts  
3 if they are telling me this would not have saved them. I believe the medical  
4 doctors whose care and whose health their hands were in. Don't be drawn into  
5 the campaign of lies to support the restart of the FFTF reactor. Do not let  
6 the corporate executives who stand to make millions of dollars by the restart,  
7 influence your decision. Instead, join us in calling for the money to be  
8 returned to the payback, paid back to the cleanup projects that are so  
9 necessary at Hanford. Environmental restoration here is an honorable and  
10 urgent project and your work could not be more important. Any diversion or  
11 deadline, any diversion of resources or deadline from that goal is wrong. I'm  
12 here to call for restart of cleanup and environmental restoration; not for the  
13 startup of FFTF. Thank you.  
14

15 Pat Serie:

16 Thank you, Ms. Leven. OK. William Madia will be followed by Dennis Brendel,  
17 Darnell Severance, and Don Segna, please.  
18

19 William Madia:

20 Thank you. My name is Bill Madia. I am a resident of Richland, Washington  
21 and I am here tonight representing myself for a change. I very clearly want  
22 to state that I support the deletion of these milestones from the Tri-Party  
23 Agreement. The FFTF is an important interim source of tritium that will allow  
24 the Secretary of Energy to help ensure his obligation to the Secretary of  
25 Defense of a highly reliable, high quality tritium resource for this nation's  
26 national security. I believe those points for several reasons. The first is  
27 scientific. Tritium in this country, everywhere, is made from neutrons. We  
28 as scientists use nuclear reactors as the primary, preferred, highest quality,  
29 most reliable source of neutrons, not accelerators. If we need lots of  
30 high-quality neutrons we build and use nuclear reactors. The second reason is  
31 political. We heard many comments this evening about the potential  
32 tremendously reduced need for tritium under future treaties. I'd like to  
33 remind the group that those treaties have not been signed. The Russian  
34 government has not ratified START II; we have no assurance they will and  
35 unless and until we see that, we cannot unilaterally disarm in this country.  
36 Thirdly are the economics. Other speakers have spoken eloquently of the need  
37 for a low cost, reliable solution to this tritium problem. FFTF provides  
38 that, at least an order of magnitude, more cost effective when it comes to  
39 producing this important resource. And the last comment I would like to make  
40 deals with other missions for the Fast Flux Test Facility. That facility has  
41 enormous potential for producing medical isotopes because it is a safe,  
42 reliable, modern, cost effective provider of those neutrons and it is staffed  
43 with a highly qualified, highly trained, experienced, and safe crew. Thank  
44 you very much.  
45

46 Pat Serie:

47 Thank you, Mr. Madia. Mr. Brendel.  
48

002356

002357

1 Dennis Brendel:

2 Mr. Chairman, my name is Dennis Franklin Brendel. I am a resident in the  
3 state of Washington residing at 251 Sunnybank Road, Pasco, Washington. I was  
4 trained and received my doctoral degree from the University of Michigan in  
5 Environmental Science specializing in radiation biochemistry in 1972 and have  
6 been a professional in the nuclear industry for the last 25 years. I appear  
7 here this evening in support of the motion to withdraw the TPA milestones that  
8 would deactivate, decommission, and permanently close the FFTF. I appear here  
9 this evening as an expert representative of the American people and support of  
10 the restart of the FFTF to produce radioisotopes for medical use and to thank  
11 the citizens of Canada for having the wisdom to produce radioisotopes for  
12 medical use and their generosity in sharing their radioisotopes of tritium,  
13 carbon-14, sulfur-35, iodine-131, and many others with the United States for  
14 the last 40 years. The need for producing radioisotopes for medical use is  
15 vividly clear in today's modern society. Nearly every American man, woman,  
16 and child owes either their health or their very life to the radioisotopes  
17 produced by Canada. The American people understand the value of today's  
18 wonder drugs in the form of biochemicals, antibiotics, diagnostics, and the  
19 therapeutic use of radioisotopes to treat AIDS, cancer, and hundreds of other  
20 life threatening drugs, diseases. However, millions of Americans do not  
21 recognize that every pharmaceutical product approved by the FDA for human use  
22 in hospitals and in our homes was first developed and tested using tritium,  
23 carbon-14, and sulfur-35. At present, the United States is nearly totally  
24 dependent on Canada for radioisotopes needed to develop safe modern drugs by  
25 our universities and pharmaceutical companies. Today, many of Canada's  
26 nuclear power plants have closed due to safety concerns and if our supply of  
27 radioisotopes is jeopardized, the health of millions of Americans will be  
28 adversely affected and many will die prematurely. It seems inconceivable that  
29 the world's greatest power, the United States, with its numerous achievements  
30 in medicine, science, computerization, and other high technologies does not  
31 have the ability to produce radioisotopes for the health and welfare of its  
32 own people. I have a rare immunological disorder and my wife has had thyroid  
33 cancer and neither of us would be here today without the drugs developed and  
34 tested using radioisotopes. The drugs we take make it possible to work and  
35 enjoy life every day here in the world's greatest country with our families  
36 and friends. Ten of millions of Americans have benefited and are alive today  
37 due to the use of radioisotopes and the development of modern drugs.  
38 Therefore, as a recognized expert in the nuclear field, and having a genuine  
39 concern for the health and welfare of my fellow Americans, I recommend that  
40 the TPA milestones for FFTF be withdrawn and the FFTF be restarted b 2000 to  
41 produce radioisotopes for the benefit of the American people. In the  
42 meantime, every American owes a debt of gratitude to the Canadian people.  
43 Thank you very much.

44 Pat Serie:

45 OK. Mr. Severance. Following Mr. Severance, we will have Don Segna,  
46 Walt Apley, and Virgil Donovan, please.  
47  
48

1 Don Segna:

2 Thank you. I am Don Segna. I'm with the Advanced Nuclear Medical Systems.  
3 You heard that we were the company that sent in the unsolicited proposal and  
4 in fact, if it wasn't for my discussion with Ken Dobbin, Alan Waltar, and a  
5 few others, none of us would be here because it took that discussion to go  
6 down there and see the situation with FFTF because this site was closing that  
7 down and Westinghouse was going to make a big bonus if they closed it down  
8 early, and so we weren't very liked in this community. And the person that  
9 just said about this community wanting to make millions of dollars off of this  
10 thing and let me tell you when we first turned that proposal, this community  
11 did not support that proposal. There was a few, and the  
12 Congressman Doc Hastings was obviously one of the ones, otherwise it wouldn't  
13 have got shut down. But where were these guys that said they wanted those  
14 millions of dollars when we proposed this thing and they didn't support it.  
15 So, I just want to say, we had to prove to them before they were willing to  
16 support us and it took a long time, believe me, and there's are a lot of  
17 people in here that'll vouch for that situation. But, I want to support  
18 removing the off of the TPA obviously. Now, there was a discussion a little  
19 earlier also about the we don't need the isotopes, Janet Eary, you know, and I  
20 know the person, I don't know her personally, but I've seen her work and she  
21 is probably doing good work. She's doing an area that we're talking about  
22 here. And if it's not working and somebody says it's not working yet they're  
23 using that person as evidence that we don't need it, yet they are saying, and  
24 I think it was Gerry Pollet said some concern about there's other ways that we  
25 are working on instead of this radiation way. And I'll tell you, there's a  
26 company that was saying the same thing called IDEC. IDEC is producing two  
27 concepts for cancer treatment; it's a lymphoma cancer and one is without  
28 isotopes. It uses the same type of antibody and other one using isotopes.  
29 Well, I got this article on there, IDEC is using this one with no isotope. By  
30 golly, and they are saying that is going to be the best one. They're talking  
31 about the Fred Hutchinson; we're going to be online first, OK? So the next  
32 thing I know, the one without the isotope is approved because without nuclear  
33 seems to have a faster track; there's not that much concern because everyone  
34 in the government if it's nuclear and something is wrong, they get blamed even  
35 if it is IDEC that screwed up. So they are extremely careful. It takes a  
36 little longer and it may take another two years. And what they are telling me  
37 now, is this is, this is good for the slow growing lymphoma cancers but it  
38 will not touch the fast growing. We need the isotope that will really kill  
39 those cells. So I think people in here have really got to do their homework  
40 when they just pick one person and I am talking about some young people here.  
41 You don't have to listen to me, but don't listen to one person and take all  
42 your evidence from that one person. If I did that, I wouldn't have been here  
43 either. I came here because, I came up here for the Conservation Renewable  
44 Program from NASA. I didn't know how to spell nuclear hardly and I didn't  
45 spell isotope right either. And it took a little while for me to get into bed  
46 enough with these guys that I didn't even want to get close to them. But I  
47 came up here and they had a tremendous conservation program and renewal  
48 program, renewable program for a lot of those guys who didn't know what  
49 renewable are and I got caught up with, where's this Schenter, I saw him, him  
50 and Dr. Darrell Fisher, that came up to me. I was still with DOE and they

1 came up with this project of a medical isotope. This particular isotope they  
2 said has got a lot of advantages in it and we can't get it funded. And they  
3 were out at the lab, it was known, well, if you can't get any funding from  
4 your boss, go up to Segna and he can probably find a few bucks for you. So I  
5 looked at that, and I said you guys are crazy. This is the most important  
6 thing I worked on. Let me tell you a little bit of my history when I say that  
7 it does mean a little something.

8  
9 Pat Serie:

10 Mr. Segna, one minute, please. One more minute, please.

11  
12 Don Segna:

13 I worked on the Apollo program and the shuttle program and I was in, I worked  
14 two of the critical eight missions in those, for every launch in the Apollo  
15 program and got the mission requirements together for the shuttle program.  
16 And I came and told them this is the most important program I've ever seen. I  
17 went to Headquarters twice and could not get funding. It is this anti-nuc  
18 sentiment that's the concern and this, if you took all the foreign reactors  
19 that are producing isotopes for this country and if you guys are concerned  
20 about nuclear proliferation, you better bring those isotopes back home because  
21 to produce isotopes takes the most educated nuclear physicist that can make  
22 all kinds of bombs, and what are we doing? We're down in Peru. They're in  
23 Korea. That's where these reactors are. Canada, Russia, those are where we  
24 are getting those isotopes. So I guarantee you, you better think twice about  
25 saying shut this guy down because the minute you shut it down, and the nuclear  
isotopes are good, you need two. FFTF is a single point figure. Any reactor  
is a single point figure. You need two of them so now you are not only going  
to build one more to match this one, you gotta build two after this one.  
Thank you very much.

30  
31 Pat Serie:

32 Thank you, Mr. Segna. OK. Wait, wait, wait. Are you Mr. Severance? I  
33 skipped over Darrell Severance somehow. Is that you? Thank you. Darrell,  
34 please go ahead. After Mr. Severance, we will have Walt Apley,  
35 Virgil Donovan, and Alan Waltar, please.

36  
37 Darrell Severance:

38 My name is Darrell Severance, Kennewick, Washington. Speak in favor of the  
39 milestone deletion in that we have been placed in a standby. We are no longer  
40 with the Tri-Party Agreement and with being delayed already a year, there's no  
41 way to meet those and there is no point in keeping milestones that you cannot  
42 meet. The other part I would like to talk about is FFTF's past history. We  
43 have produced medical isotopes in the past. We've also done some tritium  
44 experiments in the past, and we have done this in small quantities, in single  
45 locations. Being able to do it in a larger area using the deflector region  
46 will allow us to produce much more. The parts about one and a half kilograms  
47 of tritium not being enough to meet all our needs is true; however, with the  
48 decay of tritium, you can put more back into the pot. You extend the time  
that you need for development of other capabilities. That would allow more  
research into the accelerators to whether it can actually be a proven source

1 of tritium in the future and also allows for a lengthening of the work  
2 schedule to meet the research rather than trying to learn everything on a  
3 crash course.

4  
5 Pat Serie:

6 Walt Apley. After Mr. Apley, we'll have Virgil Donovan, Alan Waltar, and  
7 Cindi Laws, please.

8  
9 Walt Apley:

10 Thank you. My name is Walt Apley. My family has lived in this part of the  
11 country for about 100 years. I've lived here for about 20 years in the  
12 Tri-Cities. I'd like to start by saying that I'd hate to see any changes to  
13 the Tri-Party Agreement milestones. That agreement is a contract for cleanup  
14 and it is important to all of us, but I also understand that the Secretary of  
15 Energy is between a rock and a hard place. First Secretary O'Leary and now  
16 Secretary Peña have an obligation to supply tritium, but they also have an  
17 obligation not to spend billions and billions of dollars, which will delay  
18 cleanup on production options that may never be needed if the demand for  
19 tritium goes down. It is important to realize that the START II treaty was  
20 signed by the United States and Russia five years ago this month. It has been  
21 ratified by the United States Senate but the Russians have not ratified  
22 START II. Until they do, the Secretary has a clear rationale for keeping the  
23 FFTF in standby as a tritium production option. That said, I think the  
24 tentative agreement is the best approach. Finally, there is a lot of  
25 promising material and a lot of debate about medical isotopes. However, it is  
26 clear that no market will ever develop and no widespread use of isotopes for  
27 treating cancer and a host of other diseases will ever occur without a major  
28 change in the way we produce and supply isotopes for clinical trials and  
29 treatment. There are 1.4 million new cases of cancer each year. As you can  
30 tell from my previous remarks, I do not believe in unilateral disarmament. I  
31 also do not believe in unilaterally condemning all those people who may get  
32 cancer in the future to the currently harsh and debilitating treatment  
33 options: surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation. I think we should give full  
34 and factual consideration to FFTF, supplying isotopes that can provide more  
35 effective treatment with a higher quality of life. Thank you very much.

36  
37 Pat Serie:

38 Thank you, Mr. Apley. Mr. Donovan. Following Mr. Donovan will be  
39 Alan Waltar, Cindi Laws, and Leonard Harville, please.

40  
41 Virgil Donovan:

42 I'm Virgil Donovan. I'm a former administrative engineer for the Atomic  
43 Energy Commission. I was one of the engineers following the FFTF through  
44 preliminary and design stages as early as 1965, prior to any construction. I  
45 transferred to the Albuquerque weapons headquarters and was coordinator in the  
46 Nuclear Weapons Production Transportation and Storage until transferring to  
47 Rocky Flats in Colorado. There I became the lump sum contract administrator  
48 for weapons facilities until quitting in 1972 to become active trying to stop  
49 this political nonsense. After becoming a Washington citizen again, I was  
50 encouraged to campaign against Senator Henry Jackson and did so seriously for

002360

002361

1 two years prior to the 1980 election. I gave up, as the other candidates in  
2 the face of huge donations from the nuclear corporate pork barrel which  
3 Jackson commanded. Our present day politicians and Hanford benefactors would  
4 like to continue that pork barrelling with little consideration for the nation  
5 and the public as a whole. I earlier heard Doc say this evening that it was  
6 necessary to have tritium. We have an average stockpile now with 248 kilotons  
7 size in it. In 1966, when they converted the stockpile, we could have used  
8 the same weapons and produced that same explosion. A 268 kiloton warhead will  
9 wipe out 15 to 25 miles across. It won't wipe out just six miles like the  
10 weapons that we dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Can you conceive that we  
11 really could use more than 400 of those in a holocaust situation in the world?  
12 We at one time had 33,000 of these warheads weapons in the stockpile.  
13 Nineteen thousand of those were strategic, 14,000 of them were logistic. It's  
14 ridiculous. We've gotta kill every 30 or 40 times and we just keep at it.  
15 Now we can back off and do away with tritium requirement altogether by going  
16 back to the old warhead that used plutonium and uranium. There is no need for  
17 plutonium. We used deuterium before we ever, or tritium, we used deuterium  
18 before we ever used tritium and it was safer but it cost more. Now tritium is  
19 a byproduct of every reactor and that was classified because they didn't want  
20 the American people to know that we were scattering that around. I worked at  
21 Rocky Flats and it is one of the dirtiest places on God's earth. We scattered  
22 tritium all over the city of Broomfield. We contaminated their water supply.  
23 We scattered tritium all over the neighboring ranches. We lost 23 million  
24 dollars in a suit over that. We scattered tritium all over the plant; the FBI  
25 finally closed it and if you'll look at the biggest plume you've got here at  
26 Hanford, it's tritium. It's been in the river a long time ago. I think we  
27 ought to think about converting our stockpile back to fission. We could still  
28 have just as many weapons as we got now. We wouldn't require tritium and we  
29 wouldn't require messing up our landscape here with tritium. If we get into  
30 it, you're going to have it all over the place and if you don't think so, go  
31 down and look at Rocky Flats.

32 Pat Serie:

33 OK. Alan Waltar. May I remind you that if you are representing an  
34 organization and you are going to take five minutes, please say that as you  
35 start, and if you are representing yourself, please limit yourself to three.

36 Alan Waltar:

37 Good. I am Alan Waltar and I am representing the Eagle Alliance, a national  
38 organization worthy of at least 15 minutes. Yeah, oh no. Anyway, well, I  
39 have to confess I didn't originally plan to come tonight because the purpose  
40 of these meetings is really quite perfunctory. Stated by Mr. Hughes, it is  
41 simply to recognize the present FFTF TPA milestones must be changed to reflect  
42 the reality that the security of the Secretary of Energy has placed FFTF on  
43 standby rather than shutdown mode. But unfortunately those opposed to FFTF  
44 restart have used these hearings as an excuse to stir up public resentment and  
45 grab the media limelight. Whereas I certainly embrace the Democratic system  
46 and allowing different viewpoints to be aired, I do not feel comfortable with  
47 allowing these hearings to be manipulated as serving the interests of very  
48 narrowly focused special interest groups. The time for dialogue and debate is

002362



1 during the environmental impact phase. That phase has not yet been  
2 authorized, yet these vocal opponents have communicated with thousands of  
3 people in the Northwest, feeding them misconceptions and half truths to the  
4 extent that my conscience will simply not allow me to remain silent. From  
5 what I have heard of the hearings to date, the four principal issues seem to  
6 be: number 1, the need for medical isotopes; number 2, the need for tritium  
7 production; number 3, the concerns over diverting Hanford funds from cleanup  
8 money; and number 4, FFTF safety. Given the limited time, we will focus  
9 principally on the latter. Based upon my many years of service to the  
10 American Nuclear Society, during one year as President, I am absolutely  
11 convinced from my global contacts that the need for therapeutic medical  
12 isotopes is very, very real. Despite the very limited opinions to the  
13 contrary voiced by some Northwest positions, those truly knowledgeable about  
14 the implications of new cancer treatment technologies are completely united in  
15 their strong support for FFTF. The issue of the need for tritium can be  
16 better addressed by others and it has been, but I assure you as Doc Hastings  
17 indicated, it will be produced somewhere in the United States unless we want  
18 to unilaterally disarm and give Saddam Husseins of the world precisely what  
19 they want. As knowledgeable people know, the need is not to build new and  
20 expanded weapons, rather it is to maintain a Presidential-mandated base level  
21 arsenal in working condition. Now with regard to funding issue, I would have  
22 to admit I share some of the concerns with the opposition. Like it or not,  
23 the federal government does not have a good track record when it comes to  
24 efficiency, but again Doc Hastings indicated FFTF restart would actually  
25 preserve Hanford cleanup dollars if we view this from the larger budgetary  
26 perspective. Now as a side note, many of you in this community know that as  
27 was discussed earlier, there is a proposal on the table; it's been there for  
28 over two years, to take the full financial burden off the shoulders of the  
29 federal government. Private funds are available to do the whole job, leaving  
30 far larger sums of federal dollars available for environmental cleanup, but  
31 the bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. have been systematically unwilling to  
32 consider this win-win proposal. If somebody here is really looking for a  
33 target worthy of venting some anger, I suggest you look no further. Now, as  
34 difficult as it is for me to believe, it's my understanding that one of the  
35 principal concerns expressed at the Portland meeting, and again here tonight,  
36 was FFTF safety. Now having worked on FFTF safety issues for some three  
37 decades, I think that I am in a position to comment on this topic. In fact,  
38 several chapters of a book I co-authored some 15 years ago dealt with  
39 essentially all the safety issues associated with a reactor like FFTF. In the  
40 15 years since this book was published, I've never received a single negative  
41 comment from a member of the international nuclear safety community. In fact,  
42 the feedback has been quite the opposite. Stated bluntly, FFTF enjoys a  
43 impeccable reputation for the safety imbedded into its design and operation.  
44 It's the envy of the entire world and those who would say otherwise are simply  
45 shooting from the hip. Now, it is true as Mr. Carpenter pointed out, that  
46 this past impeccable safety record must be reexamined if given a new mission  
47 because some of the basic core physics parameters do change significantly.  
48 But the new core designs and their operating conditions have been studied  
49 rather extensively. Somewhat surprisingly, the original robust safety  
50 characteristics of FFTF appear to actually be strengthened relative even with

1 a new mission. Now this is not the time or the place to debate the topic in  
2 full at this point, because the results I just offered are based on some  
3 rather preliminary calculations. Far more detailed analyses will be performed  
4 if and when the Secretary of Energy should decide to proceed with the  
5 Environmental Impact Statement. But lest anyone in this room be unduly  
6 concerned, should such detailed analyses reveal any unacceptable safety  
7 considerations, you can be sure the plant will not be restarted until those  
8 conditions are satisfactorily resolved. Based on what I've seen to date, I  
9 would be very surprised if any major concerns should arise. FFTF is an  
10 incredible, impressive, and safe plant. I hope these comments are useful in  
11 providing some comfort to unsubstantiated fears. Thank you.  
12

13 Pat Serie:

14 OK. Following Miss Laws, we will have Leonard Harville, Tom Carpenter if he's  
15 back, and Harold Heacock.  
16

17 Cindi Laws:

18 My name is Cindi Laws and I'm here to strongly oppose the deletion of the FFTF  
19 from the Tri-Party Agreement. I am opposing this despite the fact that my  
20 mother, my mother's husband, my father-in-law, and my former husband all  
21 worked out at Hanford, two of whom worked on the FFTF. The Tri-Party  
22 Agreement is a monumental covenant protecting the people of Washington by  
23 establishing the cleanup of Hanford's nuclear legacy. FFTF was added to the  
24 TPA recently and Hanford's cleanup agreement, just a short time ago. Ecology  
25 agreed and signed the contract with the people to enforce the cleanup and to  
26 honor the milestones. The Tri-Party Agreement, and again I want to reiterate  
27 this issue, it's a Tri-Party Agreement, and I'm really annoyed that EPA is not  
28 here to hear this. Roger is here representing the entire Department of  
29 Ecology, and although he is not an appointee of the Locke administration, is  
30 still the only representative of the Locke administration here to take all the  
31 heat for the opposition. Likewise, with Mr. Hughes, who has followed every  
32 hearing, he's been the only representative at the high level at the Department  
33 of Energy here to listen to the voice of the people. I respect the fact that  
34 Representative Hastings was here, and although I heartily disagree with his  
35 position, I was glad that he himself was here to listen to the folks for a  
36 short while before he had to leave. So here I am again, I'm opposing the  
37 change to the Tri-Party Agreement and deleting the milestones because the  
38 Department of Energy chose not to enforce them. It wasn't merely a fact that  
39 they were taken out by the Secretary of Energy, it was that Ecology decided  
40 not to enforce them. Where is that representation? But where is  
41 representation for Senator Patty Murray? Let's be clear. The FFTF was not on  
42 the short list of facilities until Patty Murray was strongly lobbied and at  
43 the 11th hour, asked her friends at the Department of Energy to add FFTF to  
44 the short list of sites being considered. It was only then that it was in  
45 fact added. Patty, are you concerned about those votes, your election's this  
46 fall? Do you really think that there's enough votes here that you're going to  
47 offset the votes that you're going to lose with your support for this  
48 proposition? I bring up these facts because a change in the TPA is in fact a  
49 political decision. And despite the hoopla you've heard about the potential  
50 for medical isotopes, no mission could be found for the FFTF by a whole lot of

002363

people. The FFTF was shut down because no private company was willing to invest funds and take on the isotope mission when they had the opportunity. So now DOE is trying to keep this cadaver alive so that in ten to 20 years down the line, a private company can take over possibly profitable private operation paid for by the taxpayers. In the Seattle area, we call those types of ventures stadiums, but in Richland, it's called the FFTF. I work for two different members of Congress who tried their darndest to keep the FFTF going. But we could not find a mission; we could not find the money to keep it going. Don't delete the FFTF from the TPA. Enforce your milestones. Let's do a better job at generating jobs that are created by the expanding and focused cleanup at Hanford that will guarantee full employment in the Hanford area for the next 40 years. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Ms. Laws. Leonard Harville, great. Following Mr. Harville will be Tom Carpenter, Harold Heacock, and Barbara Clark, please.

Leonard Harville:

My name is Leonard Harville. I've lived in Kennewick, Washington for the last 23 years. I'll keep my comments short because I believe most of the major points have already been voiced here. I support the revision of the Tri-Party Agreement milestones to delete the FFTF, the existing FFTF shutdown milestones. This will allow the continued evaluation of FFTF and, as a taxpayer, I believe it is important to delete these milestones to allow that evaluation and the EIS process to proceed. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Harville. We're going to switch Gerry Pollet for Tom Carpenter at the moment. Harold Heacock, please. Then Barbara Clark, Gerald Pollet, and Sandi Trapani? I'm sure that's not right, but.

Harold Heacock:

Thank you. My name is Harold Heacock and I'm here to present a statement on behalf of the Tri-Cities Industrial Development Council. The following statement is submitted regarding the proposed deletion of the transition milestones from the Tri-Party Agreement, which relate to the Fast Flux Test Facility. Tri-Cities Industrial Development Council is an organization of over 500 regional members, representing individuals, organization, business, labor, and agencies who have an interest in the economic vitality of the Tri-Cities and the surrounding area. TRIDEC has been designated as the one-voice spokesman for the business community on Hanford issues by the Department of Energy. We're fully committed to safe, economical, effective, and expeditious cleanup of the Hanford Site so that utilization of the site for other purposes can be achieved. The cleanup efforts must be accomplished in a safe, cost-effective manner, without further environmental damage or exposure to the public. We're also fully aware of the pressures on the department to accomplish cleanup of Hanford and other DOE sites expeditiously, and in the most cost-effective manner. Current, anticipated federal budget constraints requires that the department explore all reasonable alternatives to accomplish the cleanup program in the most cost-effective manner, within

all the DOE sites. The stated purpose of this hearing is to obtain public input regarding deletion of the FFTF-related milestones for the TPA. As a result of the Secretary of Energy's decision to suspend deactivation and decommissioning of the FFTF and in decision regarding the national policy to provide a new supply of tritium, the current TPA milestones are inappropriate and will not be met. The Secretary's policy decision regarding the deferral of the FFTF deactivation is a national policy issue and is beyond the scope of this hearing. Testimony at this hearing should be focused on the deletion of the milestones. Tri-Cities Industrial Development Council supports the deletion of the transition milestones from the Tri-Party Agreement as proposed in the public notice at this hearing.

We also wish to respond to some of the comments made by opponents at the previous hearings on this subject. Some of the testimony here tonight and at other locations, has raised the need for public input and discussion regarding safety, environmental, and economic issues related to the use of the FFTF for tritium production. We agree that there is a need for public input on these issues. If a decision is made by the Department of Energy to include the FFTF in the Environmental Impact Statement regarding selection of the sources applied for the tritium requirement. Currently a decision has not been made whether the FFTF will be included as an alternative in the EIS. If it is included, then there will be adequate opportunity for public review and comment on the issues which have been raised. This hearing on the action to delete the inappropriate milestones from the TPA is not a forum for public comment on these larger national policy issues.

There have been a number of statements made raising questions regarding the safety of the FFTF and tritium production cores. Most of these statements are either incorrect or have been taken out of context from available DOE documentation. The fuel that would be used for tritium production is a mixed oxide type of fuel which contains a mixture of plutonium and uranium. The use of plutonium in the reactor fuel within proven technology limits would have the added beneficial effect of reducing the amount of excess weapons plutonium which is to be disposed of as part of the Weapons Material Disposal Program. Again, the appropriate place to discuss these issues is in the EIS hearings where all pertinent information regarding the issue is available, instead of utilizing misleading statements or the extraction of limited, or inapplicable information from a number of studies which do not necessarily consider all applicable information.

A number of prominent, nationally recognized medical researchers and practicing physicians have stated on a number of occasions a need for FFTF to supply these isotopes since they are not available elsewhere. A recent letter to Secretary Peña, signed by a number of prominent medical researchers, Nobel Laureates, and the author of a National Institute of Medicine report on the supply of medical isotopes strongly supported the restart of the FFTF for the production of medical isotopes. It has been claimed that retention of the FFTF in the standby mode will require the diversion of funding from the Hanford cleanup mission. Following the Secretarial decision to maintain the reactor in standby status, pending the results of the EIS evaluation, the

1 responsibility for funding the standby mission costs were transferred from the  
2 Environmental Management budget to the nuclear technology budget in FY 98. A  
3 review of the EM budget proposal for FY 99 indicates an increase in funding  
4 available for the cleanup program due to the shift of the FFTF standby costs  
5 out of the EM budget, and I might add that Mr. Pollet has the same budget rack  
6 up that I have. I have a number of, in order to provide factual response to a  
7 number of the issues which have been raised in this and other hearings, we  
8 request that the Department of Energy provide responses to the questions  
9 regarding the FFTF which are contained in the attached supplement to this  
10 statement. We request that their responses to these questions be included in  
11 the record of this hearing. Again, we wish to reiterate our total support for  
12 deletion of the FFTF milestones from the TPA. Thank you for the opportunity  
13 to present our views.  
14

15 Pat Serie:

16 Thank you, Mr. Heacock. Barbara Clark is next, followed by Gerald Pollet,  
17 Sandi Trapani, and Daniel Clark, please.  
18

19 END OF TAPE  
20

21 Barbara Clark:

22 ... FFTF from the Tri-Party Agreement for that reason. I am not, obviously,  
23 and I'm not claiming to be a nuclear engineer by any means. I have concerns  
24 regarding the safe operation of the FFTF for tritium production based on past  
25 promises and performances at the Hanford Site. We have for years heard about  
26 how well Hanford is operated. What we see are contamination, pollution,  
27 explosions, and I'm very concerned about the impact of that on the people who  
28 live in this area and in the Northwest. I think it is really unconscionable  
29 that consideration is being given now to decreasing cleanup dollars and  
30 increasing the amount of waste that is going to be going into this area before  
31 we have safety and before we have cleanup. It seems to me that things are  
32 being done backwards. I think there has to be some evidence that the capacity  
33 is there to do cleanup before we contaminate this area further and I don't see  
34 any evidence that capacity has been demonstrated at this point. With regard  
35 to the Tri-Party Agreement, I think that many of us felt that offered us a  
36 hope that there would in fact be cleanup in this area. We have had great  
37 expectations particularly of the Washington State Department of Ecology  
38 because the federal government, the Department of Energy, and the AEC before  
39 them did not appear to be terribly concerned about what kind of state they  
40 leave their sites in (I think that's true all over the United States). These  
41 are among the most contaminated sites in the country, where the DOE has been.  
42 And to have Washington state involved was very encouraging to many of us. I  
43 am concerned that, I don't know what ability the Energy Secretary has to  
44 delete certain areas, to preempt certain areas of the agreement. I wonder,  
45 there's talk here about using this facility for medical isotopes. Is that the  
46 kind of national security venture which gives the Secretary of Energy  
47 preemptive rights to abrogate an agreement like this? If that is in fact the  
48 intention of the facility, then I think that it would be appropriate to at  
49 least look into whether there is legal authority to exempt the reactor for  
50 those purposes. If the purpose is tritium, I hope that possibly then the

002366

Department of Energy can exempt any portion of the agreement by saying that somehow they're for national security. And I would hope that our state agency will protect us at least to the extent of formally protesting the abrogation of parts of this treaty, which is intended to protect all of us and our families, by simply saying that certain parts of it are simply not going to be subject to milestones anymore. Once again, I do hope that we will not delete these milestone requirements. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Ms. Clark. OK, Gerald Pollet, followed by Sandi Trapani, Daniel Clark, and Lorie Higgins, please.

Gerald Pollet:

First off, when the Department of Energy unilaterally decided not to build the laboratory, unilateral decision, this community, our Congressional delegation, and State Department of Ecology said that is not OK. You can't unilaterally decide not to do something you committed to do in the Tri-Party Agreement. And the state fined, or the EPA in that case, fined the U.S. Department of Energy. If the U.S. Department of Energy turned around several years into cleanup of the Plutonium Finishing Plant and said we decided after all we would like to separate more plutonium. We'd like to abrogate that part of the Tri-Party Agreement; we'd like to unilaterally put it back into a production mode. What would the difference be between the decision made by the Secretary of Energy on January 15, 1997, and that decision be? What difference would there be? None. Instead of deleting these milestones, at minimum, the state of Washington should be saying we may not fine you here yet, but we are going to put them in abeyance, we're not going to simply delete them. We are going to hold you accountable and we're not going to give up our leverage. And we're going to ask you to pay back the nearly 100 million dollars in cleanup funds that essentially have already been diverted to date; and if you don't do that, we will fine you. And we will lose that leverage if we simply delete these milestones. And you will be setting a precedent that no one really wants to set, that the Secretary of Energy can say, I didn't really mean it when I said I was going to empty single-shell tanks. I have a better thing to do with my money and I'm going to miss those milestones. Well, let's look at Governor Locke's criteria, which I think Congressman Hastings basically announces similar criteria for support and others have as well. It shouldn't hurt cleanup, but it does add waste and risks. We shouldn't be diverting cleanup funds, but it does. There hasn't been an EIS even though the essential decision is about to be made. And should we be making any decisions to delete the FFTF without the EIS? No. There will not be external regulation and there are strong concerns about safety, especially given the timeline for restart.

Adding plutonium into our state is something which violates state policy at this point in time without a National Equity Dialogue, and furthermore, this proposal does nothing to destroy surplus plutonium. Let me quote from the JASON's report, "feeding excess weapons-grade plutonium to the FFTF will not assist with the disposal problem of excess weapons-grade plutonium." Essentially, the weapons-grade plutonium fed in requires that this fuel which

002339

1 will be extremely unstable will have to be stored at high cost here because at  
2 Savannah River they ain't going to want it, and it is going to have to be  
3 reprocessed.  
4

5 Now, the U.S. DOE admits that it has to be reprocessed, and this violates  
6 Governor Locke's criteria as well. Governor Locke has said that any proposal  
7 to keep FFTF on hot standby must not divert cleanup funds. We are spending  
8 32 million dollars this year, as we did last year, to maintain the reactor,  
9 out of the cleanup budget. Over the next ten years we have calculated that  
10 the cost of Hanford cleanup will exceed 1 billion dollars, including the  
11 96 million dollars to date, and the fact that the so-called transfer, remember  
12 we have a flat budget under the Ten Year Plan for Hanford Cleanup, the  
13 Department of Energy's FY 99 budget request, and Harold, you have the same  
14 figures that I have, shows that they are transferring the 32 million dollars  
15 out of the cleanup budget permanently, violating the commitment made in the  
16 Tri-Party Agreement language which said that when the transition state was  
17 achieved, it is expected that funds will be available for higher-priority  
18 environmental management activities, costing us 256 million dollars. Let me  
19 just say that when you add up the cost of disposal of various waste streams,  
20 processing plutonium at FMEF will create 654 cubic meters of transuranic  
21 wastes per year. FFTF operations alone create 55. Total cost to the Hanford  
22 cleanup of disposal is 25 million dollars over the ten-year period. When you  
23 add up all the costs spent fuel, without costing out the cost of washing the  
24 spent fuel, which I will assume is paid for out of the defense budget, that's  
25 106 million dollars. Total cost to Hanford cleanup will be over 1 billion  
26 dollars. We have to hold the line on the TPA, set an example, and say  
27 rationally, let's do the EIS, let's hold this in abeyance, and then make  
28 decisions and make sure we're paid back before we let them get away with it.  
29

30 Pat Serie:

31 OK. I was just about to have Frank turn off the mic. Sandi Trapani is next,  
32 followed by Daniel Clark, Lorie Higgins, and Susan Babilon, please.  
33

34 Sonia Trapani:

35 Sonia Trapani from Walla Walla. Chair, panel members, Hanford employees, and  
36 fellow Northwest neighbors who are also Hanford employees, I am here to  
37 express a mind set of people outside of the nuclear industry. I am here to  
38 represent the hundreds of thousands of people living in the Northwest, those  
39 who are yet unborn, those who are already dead and/or dying from  
40 nuclear-related activities. In response to those who would wish to reactivate  
41 the Fast Flux Test Facility for tritium production, the people of the  
42 Northwest have a three-word message. Please stop, look, and listen. Why  
43 stop? Because the proven inability to yet clean up the nuclear waste in our  
44 soils tells us that it's essential to stop until we can clean up. We can't  
45 reopen the Fast Flux Facility because it will produce waste and we haven't  
46 figured out what to do with the waste yet. I would like to ask how much tax  
47 dollars has been spent on waste and what percentage of waste has been already  
48 cleaned up? How much more tax dollars is available to clean up? How much  
49 more waste is still in our soils? Do we have money to yet fool around with  
50 production of nuclear tritium that we don't need? Our state, the industry,

002367

1 must shut up any waste-producing activity until it has cleaned up the deadly  
2 contaminants that are in our soil, our groundwater, and Columbia River. In  
3 newspapers all around the country, these things hit the headline. When I was  
4 in Honolulu it hit the headline. I heard practically nothing about it in  
5 Walla Walla. Our state is already contaminated disproportionately to other  
6 states. We are the most contaminated site in the western hemisphere, right  
7 here. The amount of the tax dollars spent has produced a lot of paperwork,  
8 numerous conferences, lots of travel, but I would like to know, and haven't  
9 seen yet, what percentage of waste has really been cleaned up? Cleanup is  
10 still an unsurmountable feat, just like my house is. Therefore, it's almost  
11 an impossible request to continue to contaminate until we know how to clean up  
12 and literally do it. We need to also look at what we're doing. The nuclear  
13 industry needs to look at itself.

14  
15 Pat Serie:

16 One minute, please.

17  
18 Sonia Trapani:

19 Pardon me? I'm representing the Nuclear Safety League, which I was an  
20 organizer of, do I have two more minutes in addition?

002367

21  
22 Pat Serie:

23 I've got four already.

24  
25 Sonia Trapani:

26 OK. The nuclear industry needs to look at itself, its waste product, the harm  
27 already done to the living, the dead, the sick, and the potential threat to  
28 the unborn. The industry might also look at what it's done to the soil, the  
29 groundwater, the Columbia River; it must look at its leaking tanks, its  
30 potential for explosions, like Kishkten [sp?], which was the size of New York  
31 City and is uninhabitable (still, presently), and of course Chernobyl, as we  
32 all know about. Our years of involvement with cleanup tax dollars and  
33 high-paid management already points to the need for more cleanup, only  
34 cleanup, and no production. We need to listen. The industry needs to listen  
35 to the signs of our times. Nuclear production for electricity is extremely  
36 spendy and costly, in the forms of what it does to the environment, in the  
37 forms of waste, and the dollars it costs. The industry has seen its day,  
38 until we can clean up, if the horse and buggy giving way to the automobile.  
39 The nuclear has been tried, tested, and failed because it's polluted our  
40 environment. Our message today is that we want no new production. However,  
41 the lack of true cleanup is an injustice to the people living and those  
42 unborn. As responsible human beings, we want to look into a newborn baby's  
43 eyes, I'm looking forward to a new little grandchild, and I would like to look  
44 into that child's eyes and say, I've done my best to pass a safer and better  
45 world to you. I'm sure you all would, too.

002367

46  
47 Pat Serie:

48 Thank you. OK. We have Daniel Clark, and you'll be followed by  
Lorie Higgins, Susan Babilon, and Adriane Myers, please.



002368

1 Daniel Clark:

2 My name is Daniel Clark. I live in Walla Walla, Washington. I am speaking on  
3 behalf of the Friends Committee on Washington State Public Policy, which is a  
4 Quaker organization. Friends have long opposed the production of weapons of  
5 mass destruction. Such devices, including nuclear weapons, do not  
6 discriminate between civilian and military targets, combatants, or  
7 noncombatants. The use of such weapons is a clear violation of principles of  
8 international law, including the Geneva Accords, the Haig Conventions,  
9 principles established at Nuremberg, and other international protocols. The  
10 production in preparation for the use of such weapons, and their actual use,  
11 constitutes crime against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.  
12 It's often said, and we heard it from Congressman Hastings, that the  
13 production of such weapons is only a defensive act taken in order to deter  
14 other nuclear powers and that these weapons will never be used. We need to  
15 remember that the United States is the only nation in the world which has  
16 actually used nuclear weapons against other human beings. The nation against  
17 which those weapons were used was not a nuclear nation. And of course, the  
18 first nuclear weapons material produced at Hanford was itself used against  
19 massive civilian targets and resulted in hundreds of thousands of civilian  
20 deaths, and is still, to this day, causing civilian, noncombatant deaths. We  
21 believe that the United States should abandon plans to create new nuclear  
22 weapons production facilities and should end all research on weapons of  
23 massive civilian destruction. This is not a decision, as has been suggested a  
24 couple of times, that is out of our hands, that is beyond the debate and  
25 decision-making and recommendation of citizens or the agencies that are  
26 represented here. It should be continually before us as a duty and a  
27 compelling need as citizens. The previous comments of the retired nuclear  
28 productions engineer or physicist or expert are particularly telling I think  
29 on this issue. His comment on the unnecessary effect of adding tritium to  
30 existing nuclear weapons should bring home to all of us the fact that these  
31 nuclear weapons that we have are far more destructive than any tactical  
32 military use can justify morally or legally. The addition of tritium, which  
33 simply increases many times their destructive capacity, not for military  
34 targets, but for civilian targets, is something that we should not, as  
35 Americans, with our history and our current understanding of the world, be  
36 engaged in.

37 Pat Serie:

38 One minute, Mr. Clark, please.  
39  
40

41 Daniel Clark:

42 We need to remember that the United States has signed a comprehensive Test Ban  
43 Treaty, as well as START I and II, along with the other four declared nuclear  
44 powers and approximately 50 other nations. We need to begin now to eliminate  
45 existing nuclear stockpiles along with other nations. Even were the U.S.  
46 government in the face of common standards and morality to intent on producing  
47 further nuclear weapons materials, it should not happen at Hanford. In  
48 addition to crimes against humanity committed by Hanford nuclear materials  
49 production, this production constitutes a crime against the earth. We have  
50 spewed plutonium and other isotopes into the water, and the air, and the soil,

002368

1 and as we speak, they are continuing to approach the Columbia River. The  
2 solemn agreement signed by the State of Washington representing the citizens  
3 here most affected, and the two U.S. governmental agencies agreed and  
4 guaranteed to take serious steps to remedy the harm already done, including  
5 the shutdown, decommissioning of FFTF. To unilaterally have the United States  
6 government decide to abrogate that portion of the agreement is unseemly, it  
7 appears to be illegal, and it's something that the state of Washington should  
8 resist. The goal should be continued, the milestones should be maintained,  
9 the United States should not produce further tritium here at Hanford; it  
10 should not produce further tritium at all. Thank you.  
11

12 Pat Serie:

13 Thank you, Mr. Clark. Lorie Higgins. Lorie Higgins? No? Susan Babilon?  
14 Adriane Myers? Annie Plantaric? We haven't been reaching this part of the  
15 evening so early at the end, I mean. Cindy Young-Meyer? Bill Bogard?  
16 Mark Beck? Annie Capestany? Douglas Gantt? Mr. Gantt. Following Mr. Gantt,  
17 we will have Gary Walker, Luke Lilienthal, and Dave Swanberg, please.  
18

19 Douglas Gantt:

20 My name is Douglas Gantt, and I want to support the proposed action on the  
21 Tri-Party Agreement change. We have heard quite a bit in terms of why the  
22 FFTF should perhaps be restarted. I will defer to those who have already  
23 explained that to you and hold my comment in that regard until we meet here  
24 again, hopefully, for an EIS hearing. The Tri-Party Agreement provides a  
25 process for change in Article 39 and in Section 12 of the Action Plan.  
26 Article 40 of that agreement further defines a basis for providing extensions  
27 for good cause. Additionally, the section on Facility Transition,  
28 Section 8.3.3 of the Action Plan provides for a biannual review of facility  
29 status and to assess what changes are necessary. Based on this review, and  
30 the latest DOE guidance associated with the future use of facilities, DOE will  
31 update and submit the long-term facility decommissioning plan and any draft  
32 changes addressing proposed agreement modifications to EPA and Ecology for  
33 review, as appropriate. Those are the words out of the agreement that the  
34 three agencies have signed. The proposed change is consistent with the latest  
35 DOE guidance associated with the future use of the FFTF, as one of the  
36 contained facilities. There are those who only saw that list going one  
37 direction and did not envision any possibility of there being a change away  
38 from a facility no longer needed to an identified need occurring. Surprise.  
39 In my opinion, what we have already heard tonight establishes that there is  
40 good cause for initiating a change on the FFTF Tri-Party Agreement milestones,  
41 whether that would have been holding them in abeyance or deleting them with an  
42 understanding that they would be reinstated should the decision be established  
43 in that direction, has the same effect. Therefore, I favor that we approve  
44 the milestone deletion as the method that has been placed before us as the  
45 formal proposal. Thank you.  
46

47 Pat Serie:

48 Thank you, Mr. Gantt. I believe that it is Gary Walker now that I look more  
49 closely. Then if we could have ready Luke Lilienthal, and Dave Swanberg, and  
50 Thomas Tenforde, please.

002369

1 Gary Walker:

2 I'm Gary Walker, a member of the IBW77 and the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades  
3 Council. I am in complete support of the startup of FFTF. On  
4 January 20, 1998, I was in Seattle and listened to the people of Seattle who  
5 opposed the startup of FFTF. They were very rude to the speakers from DOE and  
6 the Department of Ecology by making noise and disrupting their speech. People  
7 in Seattle want answers and so do I. But if you call your government liars,  
8 and everything they say BS, how are we going to look into it to find the truth  
9 if we can't even hear their answers from all this disrupting that was going  
10 on? We know that the government has lied in the past. I myself in the  
11 Tri-Cities am not happy about that. But, with the Freedom of Information Act,  
12 the government knows we are watching and we don't plan to let them get away  
13 with it anymore. If we need tritium for warheads to support our nation, then  
14 let's start FFTF. Tritium can only be processed a few times before it isn't  
15 any good. I heard the people of Seattle say, what good is the bomb? Why do  
16 we need it? And gave a list of countries except for one that they say are no  
17 threat to our country. Well, people, the one they left out was China. When I  
18 asked the individual who put up the list of Russia and all those who weren't a  
19 threat, why they left out China, he said well, they were our friend. Well, so  
20 was Japan before they surprised us by bombing Pearl Harbor. We people need to  
21 have a strong nation. We need to show we have the strength to keep nations  
22 that would like to take our freedom away to take a second thought before even  
23 trying. But I say again, if we have enough tritium for our bombs, then let's  
24 not make the tritium. Start the FFTF to make radioactive isotopes we need for  
25 medical research and need for the cancer patients. I again support the  
26 startup of FFTF only for the good of the people. Thank you.

27 Pat Serie:

28 Luke Lilienthal, thank you. And then Dave Swanberg, Thomas Tenforde, and  
29 Bob Talbert, please.

30 Luke Lilienthal:

31 My name is Luke Lilienthal, citizen of Richland, military veteran, taxpayer.  
32 I would like to thank the facilitator for pronouncing my name correctly and  
33 the representatives for being so patient. Well, I'll make my comments brief.  
34 I support the proposed changes to modify the Tri-Party Agreement to reflect  
35 the FFTF's current standby condition. And I wanted to come out in this public  
36 way to also support the FFTF's operation to be carried as an alternative and  
37 to be evaluated under an interim tritium production Environmental Impact  
38 Statement. Thank you.

39 Pat Serie:

40 Mr. Swanberg, great! Then Thomas Tenforde, Bob Talbert, and Bob Schenter,  
41 please.

42 Dave Swanberg:

43 My name is Dave Swanberg. I've got a couple of brief comments. I support  
44 removing the milestones from the Tri-Party Agreement regarding the FFTF. I  
45 was also somewhat disappointed to hear much of the information that was  
46 presented tonight regarding medical isotopes. It's not true that medical  
47  
48  
49  
50

isotopes are not needed. There currently are shortages of medical isotopes. There are people whose Phase III cancer trials have been stopped because the medical isotopes are not available. This is a real problem, it will continue to be a real problem, and lives will be unnecessarily shortened and even lost because of it unless we do something about it. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Swanberg. Mr. Tenforde. Then Bob Talbert, Bob Schenter, and Gordon Rogers, please.

Thomas Tenforde:

No. I'm Tom Tenforde. I'm a Richland citizen and a very strong proponent of the use of nuclear technology for treating cancer and other debilitating types of disease. It's because of this strong belief I hold in the value of nuclear medicine technology that I am finding personally very deeply troubling that a number of distinguished members in the nuclear medicine community have recently made some public statements that there is no need today, or in the foreseeable future, for medical isotopes produced at the Fast Flux Test Facility. As we've heard from several earlier speakers, Dr. Janet Eary, a professor of radiology and the Chairperson of the University of Washington Medical Center's Division of Nuclear Medicine, said at the TPA hearings held in Seattle on Tuesday night that "there is not, and probably will not, be a shortage of medical isotopes in this country given the global resource available to all users." As we've also heard earlier, a similar statement has recently been made by Dr. Ken Krohn, a professor of radiology at the University of Washington, who is one of Dr. Eary's colleagues. I personally challenge the logic of these statements and especially in view of the results of several recent market surveys such as the Frost and Sullivan report that was published last fall. That report was made by an independent market survey company, located with headquarters in California, which projected that the demand for medical isotopes will grow by seven to fifteen percent per year for the next ten to 20 years, which will quickly bring us to a point well beyond the capability of existing United States isotope production sources for meeting the demand. In addition to the future problems, we have frequently heard statements recently about the shortage of medical isotopes that exist today from several distinguished nuclear medicine physicians such as Dr. Sally Denardo at the University of California's Davis Medical Center. Dr. Denardo recently reported at a symposium held here in Richland, that she cannot obtain enough copper-67 to carry out therapy trials with patients who have lymphoma tumors or breast cancer. Similar statements have been made by nuclear physicians who cannot obtain enough palladium-103 to treat prostate tumors by the very promising new radioactive seed implant method. Now if the situation is bad today, then given the growth of nuclear medicine that is projected in the near term, just think how severe the shortage of medical isotopes will be ten years from now. And it is for that reason that I strongly reject the statements of several physicians that the FFTF is not needed for medical isotope production. In conclusion, I think we are facing a situation where ten years from now this nation could very well be in a severe crisis for medical isotopes, having to rely on other nations as a source of isotopes that we should have available in the United States. This is the

002373

strongest argument I know for proceeding toward a restart of the FFTF with a significant medical isotopes mission. Thank you very much.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Tenforde. Bob Talbert. Mr. Talbert. Then we'll have Bob Schenter, Gordon Rogers, and Jim Knight, please.

Bob Talbert:

Citizen Bob, again. Over in Seattle I was number 56 to speak and it was about 11:00. I was the first proponent. So, in lieu of giving my spiel because I am vociferously anti-weapons of destruction and stridently in support of the restart of FFTF, I could not go into those reasons because I needed to correct a lot of misinformation that was promulgated, some apocryphal and some egregious, by others that had spoken before me. Tonight I wanted to do the same thing, but I need to do something else. I had a side bar with Janet Eary over in Seattle. She had mentioned that she had all the isotopes that she wanted. Chatted with her a bit, went over and asked her, "Do you know Sally Denardo?" She said, "Why, of course." I said, "When she was here she said she couldn't complete her copper-67 trials," and Janet said, "I don't know why she would have said that." I said, "Do you do copper-67?" Janet said, "I have no interest in that isotope." So I said, "You don't do lung cancer with isotopes?" She said, "I have no interest in that isotope." So I said, "Well, how about palladium-103?" She said, "No." And I said, "germanium-186, gold-198?" (Gold-198 is ovarian cancer), palladium-103, I was kind of lead-piping her because that's the prostate cancer one, and she said, "No." I said, "Here's a guy who had prostate cancer, wrote to Patty Murray and Slade Gorton and said that no place in the Northwest could he get the isotopes to be treated," and she said, "We don't treat prostate cancer with medical radioisotopes." Down in California there's a guy that's the CEO of Intel. He got prostate cancer last year, big write up about him in the Oregonian in November. I think it was in Cupertino that he got treated. He got the palladium-103 treatment and he's fine. I kind of fear prostate cancer because I'm sort of getting to be a codger and there's this debilitating side effect that occasionally happens when they cut it out with a knife. I kind of like sex, you know, that's just me, and when I get prostate cancer I'm going to Cupertino. And if Gerald Pollet has an ethical bone in his body he's going to UW.

Pat Serie:

Bob Schenter, amazingly enough, it's your turn. Then Gordon Rogers, Jim Knight, and Dave Johnson, please.

Bob Schenter:

My name is Bob Schenter. I'm a grandfather that lives in Richland and I'm sorry that the lady from Walla Walla isn't here. I'd like to talk to her about stop, look, and listen. I think that's a very important point. There's been a lot of good information on the importance of medical isotopes. I want to give a personal touch related to the importance of medical isotopes for FFTF production. I've been involved with the calculations and the production of medical isotopes for the past ten years. With this reputation, I get

calls, now it's about once a day, from people wanting to know about better treatments of cancer. And I would like to enter into the record an example of a mother talking about her daughter who died of cancer in this note, and why maybe we can clear a little bit of this smokescreen, maybe we can explain to some of these people why we work so hard, not because we get paid for it, because of something I would like to read to you. A personal note, a little personal reason why we work so hard and think medical isotopes are so important. So I would like to read this; it's very short.

"On Christmas Eve, our delightful daughter Bonnie died of kidney cancer, an incurable disease which metastasized into bone cancer. Since diagnosis in last August, she employed every treatment known to the Mayo Clinic. Her last four months were spent at our home often in terrifying, intense pain. As a registered nurse, Bonnie knew the terrible things that were happening as this villain rampaged her beautiful little body. In true Bonnie fashion, she never complained; she was unbelievably patient. Her concern was always for us, not for herself. Bonnie's last several hours were spent with her head resting in her mother's arms. Her brother held her right arm, her sweetheart held her left. Bonnie's father and friends hung Christmas lights above her bed as we sang Christmas carols to her. Bonnie is well loved and deeply appreciated. She will always be our beautiful, golden Christmas angel."

That's why we work so hard.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Schenter. Gordon Rogers will be followed by Jim Knight, Dave Johnson, and Brian Coles, please.

Gordon Rogers:

The hour is late and we're all tired and I'll try to be as brief as possible. I'm Gordon Rogers. I am the Chair of a relatively new organization called the Northwest Action Center of the Eagle Alliance. Our mission is to encourage and help promote, public education with respect to the benefits of nuclear technology and we hope that we can encourage policy changes which will support the increased use of that science and technology for the benefit of humanity. As you might suspect from that introduction, we strongly support the deletion of the FFTF milestones and we urge the agencies to make the strongest possible representations to the Secretary of Energy to begin the Environmental Impact Statement, which we hope would support the restart of FFTF for its medical isotope mission. I just want to add one brief comment with respect to the administration of hearings such as this type. The stated purpose of it is a "no brainer." It should have been handled, I think, by a issue of a fact sheet, with a phone number and a mail address of which to address comments. The extended discussions tonight on the pros and cons of tritium needs and safety, and so on, I think are premature until the Secretary has made her decision and I hope you will transmit those thoughts to the current Secretary. Thank you very much.

002376

1 Pat Serie:

2 Thank you, Mr. Rogers. Mr. Knight will be followed by Dave Johnson,  
3 Brian Coles, and Jim Stoffels, please.  
4

5 Jim Knight:

6 Thank you, Madam Chairman, panel. My name is Jim Knight. I'm a retired  
7 engineer (chemical and environmental). I live in Richland. It was quite a  
8 decision whether to come tonight or stay home and watch one of my favorite TV  
9 programs "Diagnosis Murder." In fact, maybe tonight that what we can title  
10 the panel here, murderers or benefactors. Gentlemen, this is one of the  
11 legacies you're going to be leaving. I want to commend Hazel O'Leary for her  
12 wise and great decision to postpone the final shutdown of the FFTF. The  
13 technology is advancing very rapidly in medical isotopes and I think she was  
14 way ahead of the many of her staff in being able to see what was coming down  
15 the road. Unfortunately, many of the stakeholders that should be represented  
16 won't be here tonight. They're having cancer treatments or can't travel this  
17 far. A few weeks ago I was in Houston talking to a cancer patient that had  
18 his protocol cancelled unilaterally by the government. He was very upset  
19 because the treatments were going very well and he didn't know whether this  
20 would result in his premature death or not. This is one of the problems that  
21 we have with the shortage of isotopes and the whims of the government action  
22 in some of these activities.  
23

24 Roger, I am definitely opposed to FFTF being continued on the milestone and it  
25 should be dropped off immediately. I am a tax payer and I've attended and  
26 actually participated in some of the TPA and Hanford Advisory Board meetings,  
27 and frankly, from my perspective, they border on about as close as you can get  
28 to being a farce, really. They basically they've been established to pacify  
29 some activist groups here and I believe the main reason for these public  
30 meetings is to squelch the ego of some of these activists and I think this is  
31 pretty apparent looking at what's on the front up here. I also believe that  
32 millions of dollars that we're spending to foreign nuclear entities for  
33 isotopes could be better spent in funding isotopes at the FFTF. Yeah, there's  
34 not a shortage because we're importing millions of dollars worth. These  
35 millions of dollars could do a real big job in not only promoting the economy  
36 here, but providing funds for cleanup.  
37

38 Pat Serie:

39 One minute, please, Mr. Knight.  
40

41 Jim Knight:

42 How much more? One minute? OK. In traveling overseas a few years ago, I was  
43 able to get irradiated food products and I felt very safe with them. I can't  
44 get them in this country. I came out to this area 25 years ago to start  
45 working with food irradiation. There were some lobbyist positions for social  
46 responsibility, HEAL, yeah. They were able to lobby and prevent the  
47 establishment of the radioisotope for isotope irradiation of food products. I  
48 know there's been a number of people that have died from that and I think this  
49 track record, these are the same people that are opposing the FFTF restart. I  
50 think just from seeing the number of people that died from food contamination

because we did not have the irradiated foods shows pretty much the kind of people we're dealing with.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Knight. Dave Johnson. Mr. Johnson will be followed by Brian Coles, Jim Stoffels, and Larry Flint, please.

Dave Johnson:

My name is Dave Johnson and I see a lot of faces here of people I've worked with over the years. Like Bob Schenter, Alan Waltar, Ken Dobbin, and Dave Wooten who used to be out there and my eyesight isn't very good so I don't see other people that are out there. I came here first in 1960, worked on reactors. I worked on the FFTF until 20 years ago and I moved on to Boeing. I'm retired now and my views have changed a lot over the years. And being retired, and I don't even have a home, so property values aren't an issue with me. I feel like I can speak from my heart. You know, and I have some sympathy with both sides of what's being expressed tonight. I want to focus on just one issue here, although I've spoken in the past against several issues about restarting the FFTF. And the one issue that I want to address tonight is the assumption that FFTF is a good way to make medical isotopes. I believe that it is not a good way compared to another approach, which is available to Hanford. If an effort were made by Hanford contractors and DOE-RL, and it's a big if, the story is this. From 1977 to 1984 I worked on a project at Westinghouse Hanford called the FMIT Project. And Bob Schenter knows it very well. Other people do, and here's an example, this is the design we came up with, this accelerator for producing neutrons for doing radiation damage studies on fusion reactor materials. Here is some of the accelerator details right here. When the project was canceled in 1984 due to a shortfall in the fusion budget ...

END OF TAPE

Brian Coles:

... when you're going to shut down a facility, the federal government wasn't very good at following up on that. They were kind of leaving things laying around. So the purpose is, if you're going to use it, TPA milestones are there to make sure you do. Well, let's say they decide you needed it after a while, and let's kind of look at why they decided, all of a sudden, they needed to use it. The United States Department of Energy is required under U.S. environmental law, prior to building a new facility, to evaluate previous facilities and existing facilities. Anyway, because of a number of incorrect assumptions, FFTF was excluded from the initial tritium agreement. Perhaps those are the same people Mr. Pollet and DOE that you've been talking to that come up with all of this bad stuff on DOE. Somehow it just got overlooked. So, because we are in a new state, the TPA milestones simply are not valid; therefore, they should be gotten rid of. They can always come back if we decide to shut it down. Now I think we have the right to question motives of those who believe in first amendment rights for themselves, but not for people who oppose them. Thank you.



1 Pat Serie:

2 Thank you, Mr. Coles. Jim Stoffels. After Mr. Stoffels, we will have  
3 Larry Flint, Dan Houston, and Gai Ogelsbee.

4  
5 Jim Stoffels:

6 I'm Jim Stoffels representing World Citizens for Peace of the Tri-Cities.  
7 World Citizens for Peace opposes the remilitarization of Hanford by the  
8 proposed use of the Fast Flux Test Facility to produce tritium for thermal  
9 nuclear warheads. The national security of the United States does not require  
10 any new supply of tritium. The safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear  
11 arsenal is maintained by a separate program, the Stockpile Stewardship and  
12 Management Program on which we are spending 4 billion dollars each year. The  
13 alleged need for a new tritium supply is based solely on a policy of  
14 maintaining the massive overkill capability of the cold war era. That  
15 national policy violates United States treaty obligations under the  
16 Nonproliferation Treaty to achieve nuclear disarmament. The issue of our  
17 nuclear deterrent force was addressed in a report just released December 1st  
18 by the National Defense Panel, a group of military and civilian defense  
19 experts chartered by our Congress to think about what our future military  
20 should look like. The National Defense Panel concluded that our nation could  
21 deter its enemies with roughly ten thousand fewer nuclear warheads than we now  
22 possess. The National Defense Panel essentially corroborated a study released  
23 last June by the National Academy of Sciences. The NAS study, chaired by  
24 Major General William F. Burns, former Director of the U.S. Arms Control and  
25 Disarmament Agency, examined in depth the question, how much is enough. And  
26 concluded that roughly 300 nuclear weapons should be adequate to preserve the  
27 core deterrence function. Through recycling the existing U.S. supply of  
28 tritium can maintain an arsenal of 1,000 nuclear weapons into the middle of  
29 the next century. The sole purpose of DOE's tritium supply program is to  
30 implement the existing U.S. policy of maintaining a huge stockpile of some  
31 10,000 warheads for the indefinite future. After the end of the cold war, the  
32 demise of the Soviet Union and the dissolution of the Warsaw pact, that policy  
33 is scandalous and dangerous. As long as nuclear weapons exist, we remain  
34 their potential victims. Moreover, the tritium supply program to maintain  
35 that arsenal violates United States treaty obligations under the  
36 Nonproliferation Treaty. The NPT, which we signed 30 years ago, contains a  
37 commitment to negotiate a treaty on complete nuclear disarmament under  
38 effective international control. In 1996, the International Court of Justice,  
39 the most authoritative body on the subject issued an opinion on the illegality  
40 of nuclear weapons, which asserted that the NPT requires the nuclear powers to  
41 actually achieve nuclear disarmament. Our government has consistently  
42 rejected all proposals to begin negotiations leading to a nuclear weapons  
43 convention, to specify a schedule for verified step-by-step reductions of  
44 nuclear arsenals. We do understand the potential usefulness of medical  
45 isotopes in the treatment of cancer, but that distant benefit does not  
46 override the near-term use of FFTF to maintain a huge arsenal of  
47 thermal-nuclear warheads in violation of United States treaty obligations.  
48 The end does not justify the means. Therefore, we oppose the deletion of  
49 cleanup milestones scheduled under the Tri-Party Agreement for the FFTF.  
50 Thank you.

002380

1 Pat Serie:

2 Thank you, Mr. Stoffels. Larry Flint is our next speaker. Mr. Flint will be  
3 followed by Dan Houston, Gai Oglesbee, and Kenneth Gasper, please.  
4

5 Larry Flint:

6 I'm Larry Flint, resident of Richland. I work for a San Francisco based  
7 company and I'm glad to be in town this evening for this opportunity to speak.  
8 I'm sorry that there's so many people that left, it's a long evening though,  
9 and I'll try to keep my comments very short. I believe that Hanford helped us  
10 win World War II, helped us win the cold war, and I would like to see Hanford  
11 join in the battle to fight cancer. Radioisotopes are used across the country  
12 in hospitals every day. Nuclear medicine specialists, doctors, are developing  
13 new means, new ways to use radioisotopes. When you consider under the  
14 terrific, or the horrible means of treatment of some of the cancers, the  
15 radical breast mastectomies, the highly poisonous chemotherapy, discussions  
16 tonight about prostate surgery, that's scary business. The use of  
17 radioisotopes really is not, and it is proving to be very effective for many  
18 types of cancer. I definitely support the modifications to the Tri-Party  
19 Agreement, and I support the FFTF. Thank you.  
20

21 Pat Serie:

22 Thank you, Mr. Flint. Next we have Dan Houston, Mr. Houston, and then we'll  
23 have Gai Oglesbee, Kenneth Gasper, and then Ron Gouge, Gouge. I thought that  
24 was Mr. Houston, no Mr. Houston. Gai Oglesbee, please.  
25

26 Gai Oglesbee:

27 Took a long time to get up here tonight. I've lived here for a number of  
28 years and my husband's family lived here since 1945. So I have watched a lot  
29 of changes come and go here and I've also suffered some results in my family  
30 because I've lived here. But this is my home and I will stay here hoping that  
31 all of everybody that's involved, and there's only a few of you left here now.  
32 And if one of you hears what I have to say tonight, it'll be worth standing  
33 here because I didn't want to talk here tonight because I feel this is an  
34 audience that doesn't use their logic sometimes; I heard it last night and I  
35 heard it tonight. They were critical of people with a different opinion that  
36 overrules logic. What I haven't heard tonight is what causes cancer in the  
37 first place? What causes all the other ailments and lost lives from ionizing  
38 radiation exposure? For instance, a newborn died because she was born with  
39 three gigantic brain tumors that were so rare that a judge ruled in the  
40 father's favor. The caretakers, which I will refer to as the U.S. DOE, did  
41 not take care of his safety and health while he was working for them and they  
42 actually fired him for it. Some of you, or a family member or a friend, may  
43 die before the demise of the FFTF is defined. Logic is a gift, it is not  
44 granted to you, don't take it for granted. I have had cancer and many of my  
45 family members have had cancer; I just lost a fetus, too. My daughter just  
46 lost her fetus to miscarriage, which is probably caused by my genetic damage  
47 that's been diagnosed. She's afraid to have another child now, so I may never  
48 have any more grandchildren. This is very sad for me. I chose to begin  
49 working with international experts instead of national experts because there  
50 was so much controversy among the experts in this country that I felt I needed

002381

002382

1 a better chance, and these experts are just as defined, and just as expert as  
2 any national expert as anybody cited here. They're trying to prolong my life  
3 and that of my family's and yours, just the same as the experts say they're  
4 trying to prolong lives of cancer patients in this country. I've chose to  
5 begin working with them because I wanted my life prolonged; I have a lot to  
6 live for, but I have 39 ailments and if I get cancer again, they will just cut  
7 it away just like they did the first time (that's a fact). I volunteered for  
8 testing that many of you may not be able to afford if you are stricken with  
9 this disease due to exposure due to ionizing radiation. These experts appall  
10 or were appalled that the caretakers in this country do not take care of those  
11 ignored by, those ignored by ionizing radiation. If you lose your health, you  
12 lose your job. If you lose your health insurance, you can't pay for the  
13 therapy for cancer; it's a very big business and they want to be paid.

14  
15 Hazel O'Leary finally came to my rescue with a heart that did not include a  
16 government dream. Her stance allowed me to find a way to dedicate the rest of  
17 my life to education of people due to my experience and knowledge. It is my  
18 hope that all of you make your decision based on logic and heart, rather than  
19 all that paperwork generated by all those who have a reason to confuse you.  
20 Folks, the caretakers haven't taken care of the May 14, 1997 PFP explosion  
21 victims or their families to this date and they came forward to tell their  
22 injuries.

23  
24 Pat Serie:

25 Ms. Oglesbee, you need to finish, please.

26  
27 Gai Oglesbee:

28 Pardon?

29  
30 Pat Serie:

31 Can you finish, please?

32  
33 Gai Oglesbee:

34 Sure. The caretakers, which is DOE and the contractors at Hanford, need to  
35 take care of these workers as they do anybody that's injured from Hanford.  
36 The FFTF is going to produce more legacy if we start production. Let's just  
37 keep it the way it is, we don't need the garbage to clean up anymore. There's  
38 a whole bunch of curies out there right now that we need to take care of and  
39 the tanks just stay the same, so you read that every day in the paper.  
40 Believe it, that's what's happening. Thank you.

41  
42 Pat Serie:

43 Thank you, Ms. Oglesbee. Kenneth Gasper will be followed by Ron Gouge,  
44 Kay Sutherland, and Mike Walter, please.

45  
46 Kenneth Gasper:

47 My name is Ken Gasper. I'm a resident of Richland and I work in the Hanford  
48 cleanup program. I strongly support the proposed Tri-Party Agreement changes  
and I support the restart of FFTF. I believe our federal government should be  
good stewards of our federal resources. To support our government's policies

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1 requires the production of tritium and the destruction of the weapons  
2 plutonium. FFTF can play a role in this support. At the same time, FFTF can  
3 help support the growing demand for the medical isotopes to treat cancer.  
4 Finally, the positive economic impact to the Tri-Cities will assist our  
5 economic transition to self-sufficiency. For all these reasons, I support the  
6 proposed Tri-Party Agreement changes and the restart of FFTF.  
7

8 Pat Serie:

9 Thank you, Mr. Gasper. Ron Gouge, I know I'm not saying this correctly,  
10 G-O-U-G-E? Gouge? Mr. Gouge? That isn't any of you. Kay Sutherland? No,  
11 that's not you either. Kay Sutherland? Mike Walter? That's Mr. Walter.  
12 Following Mr. Walter, we'll have Del Ballard, R.S. Hammond, and  
13 Sid Altschuler, please.  
14

15 Mike Walter:

16 Again, just like in Seattle, I notice that the majority of people who are with  
17 you, Gerald have left, but Tom, you've stayed, that's good to see this time.  
18 My question is, I have a few things I'd like to comment on, or wait am I  
19 mistaken? That's Tom up there still, isn't it? Sorry, Tom has left again,  
20 like he did in Seattle. Huh, our people have left, too, yes I agree  
21

22 Pat Serie:

23 Let's get on it, the clock is running.  
24

25 Mike Walter:

26 Yes, OK, sorry about that, thank you. My name is Mike Walter and as I said, I  
27 live here in Richland and beings that the wind blows all directions, I am a  
28 downwinder also. I am in support of deleting the TPA, my father works at the  
29 FFTF, so my family has a big stake in that; in fact, we all do if you really  
30 look at it.  
31

32 My major concern is have we projected the total economic impact of shutting  
33 down FFTF permanently? Not just for 'round here and not just for what we  
34 would see, but technical aspects as a whole. And as for my brothers in  
35 280 Operating Engineers worldwide, not 280 worldwide, but operating engineers  
36 worldwide would agree with me, we are in support of all kinds of jobs and we  
37 are in support of safety, and we are also in support of declassification. I  
38 would love, myself, to see as many documents to be declassified as possible.  
39 In fact, we have a whole organization whose job is to declassify the  
40 documents. It's just unfortunate they're not done with their work yet. Just  
41 like all of us, we're sayin' we want to work ourselves out of a job, they also  
42 do to.  
43

44 Bein' a downwinder, I'm not afraid of what blows 'round in the wind. You guys  
45 say you're downwinders in Oregon? I live just down here by Fred Meyer. I'm a  
46 downwinder, there's a wind that blows that way also. I know I'm not afraid of  
47 what's in the wind. Lot of times there at Hanford Site we see signs that says  
48 radioactivity, underground. I walk right on those signs, I have no problems  
49 with it. When the buildings I clean as a janitor has drums of waste in it,  
50 the 333 Field Supply Shutdown Building, I think you know what that building

1 is, Bob, if I'm not mistaken? They have worked hard at defueling a lot of our  
2 reactors. They have a room that's roped off by a chain, and that's all, it  
3 has drums full of the stuff that they've taken out of reactors. I'm not  
4 afraid to walk by those drums. I do that quite often in fact, I go from one  
5 building to another. And also, look at Hazel O'Leary. We're saying that we  
6 are using money at FFTF and a lot of you don't agree with that. Do we  
7 remember a lot of the well-documented escapades of Hazel O'Leary wasting our  
8 money? And I don't hear anything talking about that. Thank you. Oh, and one  
9 more thing, real quick, real quick. We had a bus lot built, a very beautiful  
10 bus lot. The buses were a shut down, uh, it was shut down just after it was  
11 built, and the buses were taken away, just after it built. And then just  
12 recently we've received a paper saying: Do not defraud the government. And  
13 it showed examples of it, but that bus lot was never mentioned. Thank you.  
14

15 Pat Serie:

16 Thank you, sir. Del Ballard? Mr. Ballard? No? R.S. Hammond? Following  
17 Mr. Hammond, we'll have Sid Altschuler and Randy Schwarz, please.  
18

19 R.S. Hammond:

20 Thank you. The name is Dick Hammond. I'm a professional electrical engineer  
21 for the last 30 or 40 years, primarily at Hanford. I worked about 16 of those  
22 years at FFTF as a design person and designed many of the things you see  
23 there. So I know the majority of the people in the audience tonight and I  
24 share the majority of their opinions. I am not about to be blown away by the  
25 smokescreens of Gerry Pollet, etc., the trivia he's talking about. I realize  
26 that I have a background of knowledge that exceeds his considerably. But I  
27 would like to say specifically, that I did call your 1-800 number this  
28 afternoon and told him yes, I did want to agree to the proposed changes in the  
29 TPA that would deactivate, delete deactivation milestones for the FFTF, and I  
30 want to state that again. I do want that to happen; I do want the effort  
31 which the Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary initiated last January 1997 to  
32 have steps follow. I do want the reactor kept in a standby mode to allow for  
33 possible evaluation of the FFTF for future missions.  
34

35 Under this I hope that their primary mission would be an interim source of  
36 tritium for the nation's defense needs and I'm not about to make my own  
37 decision what defense needs are; I'll accept the government's, and  
38 Doc Hastings', etc. And as a supplier of medical isotopes, I personally am  
39 using those these days, and the last time I was over for a bone scan, I think  
40 it was Dr. Mahoney, I waited an extra hour for the incoming shipment from  
41 Canada. Thank you.  
42

43 Pat Serie:

44 Thank you, Mr. Hammond. Mr. Altschuler? And then after Mr. Altschuler,  
45 Randy Schwarz, please.  
46

47 Sid Altschuler:

48 My name is Sid Altschuler. I represent only myself. I agree completely with  
49 Gerald Pollet that we need every cent we can get for cleanup. I, therefore,  
50 consider it an outrage that Washington state is allowing its money to be

002385

002386

3 squandered to buy advertisements in papers owned by multimillionaires, and  
4 spending its money on lawyers instead of cleanup. It should defund the  
5 so-called public interest groups, which aren't public interests, they are  
6 small activists, one item people who just have nothing else much to do. The  
7 other thing is I would like to see the State of Washington spend concern on  
8 safety and environment, consider the cover up that is being pulled by the  
9 State of Oregon on nerve gas by making big fusses over Hanford. It would be  
10 nice if the State of Washington did half the job defending its people that the  
11 legislature and Governor of Oregon and their Congressional representatives  
12 did. Thank you.

13 Pat Serie:

14 Thank you, Mr. Altschuler. Randy Schwarz.

15 Randy Schwarz:

16 Hi. My name is Randy Schwarz and I propose removing the TPA milestones for  
17 FFTF. And I'd like to make just a general observation that I have, that those  
18 who oppose the restart of FFTF have very, at least obvious agenda to me, and I  
19 think that agenda is that if it's nuclear and it's running, shut it down; if  
20 it's nuclear and shut down, don't start it up. And because of that, and if  
21 that is your agenda, then the means to that goal is not that important so I  
22 don't think it matters too much that FFTF might save the lives of cancer  
23 patients. It isn't important that we have an Environmental Impact Statement,  
24 it's irrelevant what the Tri-City technology base is going to be. It doesn't  
25 matter what happens to the Tri-City economy, it doesn't matter what happens to  
26 the Tri-City families, of which I am one. Now there are all of you that say  
27 that's not true, that's not true, we love everyone. To this I have one  
28 question. If FFTF was not supposed, it does not produce tritium, would you  
29 support it? In fact, I have another question. Under what conditions would  
30 you let FFTF start? And I would propose there are none. Thanks.

31 Pat Serie:

32 Thank you, Mr. Schwarz. Mr. Schwarz is our last listed speaker. Is there  
33 anyone else that would like to offer comment? Yes, sir? Mr. Johnson.

34 Dave Johnson:

35 I would like to provide some comments about another assumption had to do with  
36 the DOE proposal that FFTF is a good interim solution for producing tritium.  
37 And one of the arguments that I've heard against that is the, well the cost of  
38 the accelerator, you know, at Savannah River, would be so high that it would  
39 eat up the DOE budget, or something like that. Well, one of the things I see  
40 is that the need for tritium is dropping rapidly and it's approaching zero  
41 sometime. I hope it does. But anyway, if it drops rapidly enough then  
42 clearly the Savannah River accelerator has proposed for many billions of  
43 dollars has oversized. But it's easy to downsize it, easy to get it down  
44 roughly a tenth of the cost comparable to the FFTF. There's another approach  
45 which it would also make it more cost competitive with the FFTF. The cost as  
46 I understand it, is a tritium only mission. If on the other hand, you use  
47 weapons-grade plutonium in the neutron flux of accelerator, you basically burn  
48 weapons-grade plutonium and produce tritium if you want to, or shut it off.



**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Richland, January 22, 1998**

Name	Organization	Check if Presented
GERALD WOODCOCK	EASTERN WA. SECTION AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY	✓
Harold L. Anderson	Self	✓
Ruth Yarrow	WA Physicians For Social Responsibility	✓
Sheryl Paglieri	Self	✓
R Burk	Self	✓
J.N. Paglieri	Self	✓
GARY L. TROYER	SELF	✓
Stasi Mix	Self	✓
Brian McAlmont	Self	✓
Paige Leven	Heart of America	✓
William Madia	Self	✓
Dennis Brandel	Self	✓
Dannell Severance	Self	✓
<del>Suzanne Heaston</del>	<del>US Senator Slade Gordon</del>	
Don R. Segna	ANMS	✓
Walt Apley	Self	✓
R. Vigil Donovan	Citizens Against Nuclear Warfare	✓
Alan Walter	Eagle Alliance	✓
Cindi LWS	Heart of America	✓
<del>[REDACTED]</del>	<del>[REDACTED]</del>	

SUZANNE  
HEASTON -  
SLADE  
GORDON  
OFF



**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Richland, January 22, 1998**

Facilitator  
only

Name	Organization	Check if Presented	
20 Leonard Harville	self	✓	(1)
21 <del>Tom Carberry</del>	G.A.P.	—	(2)
23 Harold Heard	Tricks	✓	(3)
24 Barbara Clark	N.S.L.	✓	(4)
25 <del>Gerald Pollet</del>	Heart of America NW	✓	(5)
26 <del>Willie McGee</del>	Nuclear Safety League	✓	(6)
27 Daniel Clark	Friends of the Environment on West State Culbertson	✓	(7)
28 Lorie Higgins	—		(8)
29 Susan Babilon	—		(9)
30 <del>Adriane Myers</del>	self		(10)
31 <del>Annie Plantario</del>	self		
32 Cindy Young-Meyer	self		
33 <del>Bill Bogard</del>	self		
34 <del>Mark Beck</del>	self		
35 Annie Capestany	self		
36 Douglas Gantt	self	✓	
37 Gary E. Walker	self	✓	(11)
38 Luke J. Lilienthal	self	✓	(12)
39 <del>Dave Swanberg</del>	citizen	✓	(13)
40 Thomas Tenfarde	citizen	✓	(14)





Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Richland, January 22, 1998

Facilitator  
Only

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented	
41	Bob Talbert	Self	✓	(1)
42	Bob Schenker	Grandparent	✓	(2)
43	GORDON ROGERS	NW ACTION CENTER	✓	(3)
44	<del>Steve Steen</del>	<del>Self</del>	—	
45	Jim Knight	Self	✓	(4)
46	Doug Johnson	Self	✓	(5)
47	BRIAN COLES	SELF	✓	(6)
48	<del>ROBERT WILKINSON</del>	<del>CITY OF RICHLAND</del>	—	
49	Jim Stoffels	World Citizens for Peace	✓	(7)
50	Larry Flitt	Self	✓	(8)
51	<del>Robert Henneman</del>	<del>Self</del>	—	
52	<del>Bruce Scott</del>	<del>Self</del>	—	
53	<del>DAN HURSTON</del>	<del>Self</del>	—	(9)
54	Gai Ogilvie	Self	✓	(10)
55	Kenneth A. Gasper	Self	✓	(11)
56	<del>ROD GOSSET</del>	<del>SELF</del>	—	(12)
57	<del>Kay Sutherland</del>	<del>Self</del>	—	(13)
58	Mike Walker	Self (Operating Group)	✓	(14)
59	<del>Det Ballard</del>	<del>Self</del>	—	(15)
60	Rip Hammond	Self; Hanford Family	✓	(16)

4



Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Richland, January 22, 1998

Facilitator  
Only

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented
61	SID ALTSCHULER	self	✓
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Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Richland, January 22, 1998

Facilitator  
Only

Name	Organization	Check if Presented
81 Randy Schwartz	Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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2/20 COMMENT PD.  
P. 11/16/98

3 And at the same time you have the ability to produce power to run the  
4 accelerator so it doesn't cost you anything to run it. And you can sell the  
5 excess power on the grid and make money, just like N Reactor. So I think that  
6 N Reactor, FFTF is not a good interim solution for producing tritium.

7 Pat Serie:

8 Thank you, Mr. Johnson. You sneaked in two. OK, is there anyone who hasn't  
9 spoken who'd like to go on record? Let me remind you, please, that the  
10 comment period does last until February 20. There are written comment forms  
11 outside the door. The last hearing is in Hood River on the 12th of February  
and thank you all coming and staying so long. Goodnight.

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT PUBLIC MEETING FOR FFTF  
HOOD RIVER, OREGON  
FEBRUARY 12, 1998

Panel Members:

Greg deBruler - Columbia River United  
Dirk Dunning - State of Oregon  
Ernie Hughes - U.S. Department of Energy  
Pat Serie - Moderator  
Roger Stanley - Washington Department of Ecology  
Mike Wilson - Washington Department of Ecology  
Jon Yerxa - U.S. Department of Energy

Pat Serie:

The proposal tonight, as I believe you know is to change milestones in the Tri-Party Agreement, to reflect a change in the status of the Fast Flux Test Facility. The transition of that facility has been suspended and there is a decision expected later this year on whether to resume shutdown or to consider FFTF for tritium production. The proposed change package is at both of the sign-in tables if you haven't had a chance to see it. The purpose tonight is to let the agencies responsible for making a decision on that change package hear from you on whether or not they should change those milestones.

I know there are strong feelings about the project in many directions, and would ask that everyone respect the speakers and the people that are here. We are going to spend the entire evening and hear everyone who wants to go on the public record. Here's how it will work; we will first hear from Dirk on behalf of the State of Oregon, and we'll have a brief presentation on the situation relating to the proposed changes and the background on the project from Ernie Hughes and Roger Stanley. Greg is going to be providing an alternative view to the proposed changes as a local interest group representative. We're going to spend just about 15 minutes on clarifying questions if there are things you need to know in order to make your comments, we would like to let that happen, but we want to get to the bulk of the evening, which is the public comment. So we would ask that really only clarifying questions.

Many of you have signed up to speak. If you haven't yet signed up, please see either table and we will be alternating in the public comment; one person that signed up from there and one person from over here. We will wait as I said for everyone to be heard from. We should be starting that public comment by 7:45. We are asking that if you are representing an organization you state that and that only one person formally represent a particular organization. Organizational comments are allowed five minutes. Individuals we're asking to limit to three minutes each, so if you're part of an organization, but

1 someone's already spoken on behalf of that organization, please respect that  
2 three minute limit. My job is to keep us moving along and to let people know  
3 when we need to move on to the next person. We're not asking the agencies to  
4 respond tonight, but they will be making written responses to all the  
5 questions and the comments that they hear. Everything heard tonight will be  
6 formally on the record.  
7

8 Just a little bit of housekeeping. There are restrooms back there and up  
9 here, and there's water on the back table. So let me first introduce  
10 Dirk Dunning with the State of Oregon.  
11

12 Dirk Dunning:

13 Thank you. Good evening. My name is Dirk Dunning, contrary to what the sign  
14 on the table says. I expected my colleague to be here and to be able to sit  
15 at the table all evening and instead, I get to do that honor. I wanted to  
16 welcome the Tri-Parties on behalf of the State of Oregon to the Hood River  
17 area and thank them for bringing this opportunity for public comment here to  
18 Oregon. We have a lot of public who are very interested and a lot of issues  
19 involving Hanford, the Fast Flux Test Facility being one of them.  
20

21 My comments are very limited. In the past year and a half, the State of  
22 Oregon has looked at the proposals to restart the Fast Flux Test Facility and  
23 has come out unanimously in opposition. If you'd like any greater detail, we  
24 have a fact sheet which is on our home page or let me know and I can get you a  
25 copy later. Unfortunately, I have been on the road a week and a half and I'd  
26 expected my colleague to be here with copies so I don't have any with me. And  
27 I'd like to thank all of you for coming out, it's an impressive turn out.  
28

29 Pat Serie:

30 Ernie Hughes is going to give us a brief background on the FFTF situation and  
31 on the proposed change package and he'll be followed by Roger Stanley from the  
32 Department of Ecology.  
33

34 Ernie Hughes:

35 Thank you, Pat. Good evening everybody. I want to thank you for coming out  
36 tonight. In addition to my responsibility as the Director of the FFTF Standby  
37 Project Office, I'm here tonight along with Jon Yerxa from the Department of  
38 Energy as the representative to the Tri-Party Agreement. There's a change in  
39 the status of FFTF and tonight we're here to explain proposed revisions to the  
40 Tri-Party Agreement milestones that result from that change. The proposed  
41 milestone change are not a decision, or is not a decision, to restart the  
42 facility. The proposed revision simply reflects that FFTF has gone from  
43 deactivation to standby status until it is decided if the facility is needed  
44 to support the nation's requirements for tritium. For those of you who are  
45 not familiar with FFTF, it is a 400-megawatt sodium-cooled reactor built in  
46 the 1970s, started up in 1980, and operated to test liquid metal reactor  
47 technology components and systems from 1982 to 1992. The reactor is located  
four miles west of the Columbia River.

Unlike the production reactors at Hanford, FFTF does not take water from the Columbia, it does not discharge effluents to the Columbia, nor does it discharge radioactive effluents to the ground, either surface or subsurface. In the early 1990s, there was no identified mission for FFTF so in December of 1993, the Department of Energy issued a formal shutdown order for the facility. The TPA agencies, in July 1995, established a set of deactivation milestones, since the Department of Energy had decided that FFTF no longer had a mission. Staff at the FFTF moved forward with the deactivation program that safely defueled the reactor and placed many systems in a shutdown condition. In late 1995, Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary received an unsolicited privatization proposal to take over FFTF, and with private funding, produce tritium and sell it back to the government. In the proposal the revenue from the tritium production would be used to expand FFTF's capability to produce medical isotopes.

Tritium production is essential to maintain the nation's current stockpile of nuclear weapons. One-half of tritium is lost through radioactive decay every 12.3 years. The United States last produced tritium in 1988. That source, the K Reactor in Savannah River, is no longer available. In 1995, the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Council and the President determined the new tritium source is needed by the year 2005. The DOE is responsible for providing tritium to the Department of Defense and is, therefore, caught in a dilemma. The two current tritium production options each have major issues. The accelerator option requires billions of dollars in funding out of a flat Department of Energy budget. The use of a commercial light water reactor for tritium production requires controversial Congressional legislation. In addition, the need for tritium could change if the Russians ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty Two Agreement; the need could also change if there are new negotiations.

Faced with this dilemma, the Secretary stopped the irreversible step of draining the sodium from FFTF and commissioned independent reviews to look at the technical and economic feasibility of using the facility. Those reviews indicated that FFTF could safely and economically produce tritium on an interim basis. In January 1997, Secretary issued DOE's decision to maintain FFTF in a standby mode, pending a decision to be made by December 1998 on whether or not the facility will play a role in the nation's tritium production strategy.

Today FFTF reactor is completely defueled. Detailed technical, economic, safety, and environmental analyses to help the Secretary make a decision have been completed. Reports on those analyses were issued December 1st, and are publicly available. Currently, FFTF work is limited to activities that will not inhibit a reactor restart, therefore the original work schedules, which were the basis for the Tri-Party Agreement milestones are no longer valid. The TPA milestones affected by the decision to maintain FFTF in standby are described in the fact sheets that are available on the two sign-in desks. The

1 M-81 series cover physical deactivation of the facility and the M-20 series  
2 cover formal closure of the environmental permits.

3  
4 Recognizing the January '97 change in facility status and deactivation to  
5 standby, the TPA agreement agencies agreed to negotiate revised TPA  
6 milestones. The Hanford Advisory Board was briefed on the need for these  
7 changes in July '97 and in October the TPA agencies reached a tentative  
8 agreement to delete the existing milestones. The agencies also agreed that if  
9 the Secretary of Energy decides that FFTF is to resume the shutdown process,  
10 negotiations on new deactivation milestone dates will begin within 90 days.  
11 The Department of Energy has stated that it intends to establish and maintain  
12 a management and funding responsibility for FFTF under the Office of Nuclear  
13 Energy in fiscal year 1999 through shutdown.

14  
15 Finally, any environmental compliance issues relative to the FFTF will  
16 continue to be addressed through the Washington State Department of Ecology's  
17 Sitewide Compliance Assurance Program. In conclusion, the President has  
18 established the current demand--that a current demand for tritium exists. The  
19 Secretary of Energy has changed FFTF status from deactivation to standby to  
20 maintain that option given significant uncertainties in supply and demand.  
21 The Congress has approved reprogramming funds in fiscal 1997 to keep FFTF in  
22 standby, approved keeping it in standby through fiscal 1998. In the  
23 President's fiscal year 1999 budget submittal has Nuclear Energy funds  
24 identified to maintain FFTF in standby.

25  
26 The three Tri-Party Agreement agencies believe the best way to deal with the  
27 change is the proposed agreement revising the milestones. Let me emphasize  
28 again the proposed decision is not a decision to restart the facility. Any  
29 decision of that nature would require an Environmental Impact Statement with  
30 full public involvement. We look forward to your comments and questions here  
31 tonight. Please give us your comments either orally or written. The three  
32 agencies will use the input that is focused directly on this change to revise  
33 and finalize the tentative agreement. We expect that some input might go  
34 beyond the specific focus of the TPA change into the national policy issues of  
35 tritium need and future uses of Hanford. We will make sure that all of your  
36 comments are provided to the appropriate Department of Energy officials. In  
37 addition to your comments tonight, I encourage you to write to me directly or  
38 send electronic correspondence if you have any questions, opinions, concerns,  
39 or issues related to the Fast Flux Test Facility. Thank you very much.

40  
41 Pat Serie:

42 OK. Roger Stanley is going to provide some background on Ecology's  
43 perspective. Roger, before you start, there are some chairs still available  
44 for people who are standing and would like to sit. If anybody's got one next  
45 to them, maybe raise their hand. OK. Roger.



Roger Stanley:

As Pat noted, my name is Roger Stanley. I'm with the Department of Ecology. I work within its nuclear waste program on Hanford Tri-Party Agreement issues, so I'm basically working on all of the various cleanup projects at the site. I'd like to comment briefly on three things: first of all, the issue of a potential FFTF restart; secondly, just a brief comment on the Tri-Party Agreement overall; and third, on the party's tentative agreement to delete the current out-of-date FFTF deactivation milestones.

First, I'd like to recognize the overall importance of the issue of a potential restart. Restart on the issues, all of the various issues, that are raised that should be of concern to all of us. The Department of Ecology will express its concerns regarding any restart proposal when and if the Department of Energy decides to formally consider FFTF operations and proceeds with an Environmental Impact Statement process. DOE has not done that yet. Should they make that decision to proceed with an EIS, Department of Ecology concerns would include environmental impacts, types of wastes that would be generated, how they would be managed, overall impacts to the Hanford cleanup effort overall, potential impacts to Hanford cleanup funding.

Secondly, I would like to just say a word about the Tri-Party Agreement itself. The Department of Ecology and the State of Washington treat the TPA as a covenant between the people of the state, the people of the Pacific Northwest, and the federal government to clean up the Hanford Site. We pay a lot of attention to maintaining its overall integrity so that its focus remains on environmental compliance and cleanup at the site. As far as the parties' tentative agreement to delete the current TPA FFTF deactivation milestones, we reached a tentative agreement and went out to public comment on that proposal basically because FFTF is not in deactivation anymore as Ernie noted, so the milestones that are in it right now are out of date. Because as one of the three managing agencies of the TPA, we typically don't leave enforceable milestones on the books in the TPA and not enforce them. It damages the overall integrity of the TPA.

Third, because the decisions to stop shutdown or stop the deactivation process and to put FFTF in standby was not a TPA decision, it wasn't one that we had any authority over, it was a decision that was made by the Secretary of Energy under DOE's authority. And fourth, that if the DOE decides to pursue startup of the FFTF, that decision also will not be a TPA decision. It's certainly an important one, but it's not a TPA decision, and will be made through the EIS process.

It's also important to note that our proposal, in as much as the Tri-Party Agreement is concerned, is not just a proposal to delete the milestones. That's the element of it that gets the most focus, but it really has four parts. First is deleting the milestones; second is what I usually think of as a reinstatement clause or an agreement up front that should the decision be made that shutdown will continue we take the milestones, hold them up to the

3 window (so to speak), make adjustments that need to made, and put them back in  
4 force. The third element is the recognition that while FFTF is in this  
5 standby mode, is not exempt from any environmental law. So if there are any  
6 environmental compliance issues at FFTF, the Department of Ecology will deal  
7 with them through our Hanford Sitewide Compliance Assurance Program. And the  
8 fourth element is that if DOE does decide to proceed with shutdown, that those  
9 shutdown costs will not come out of the cleanup budget. They'll be paid for  
10 by the Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy Program.

11 I'd also like to comment on overall funding for FFTF. Since the Department of  
12 Ecology spends its time focusing on all of the various cleanup activities  
13 onsite, we are naturally very concerned over what impacts on the overall  
14 Hanford cleanup effort that activities at FFTF could have. That's something  
15 that we're taking a very close look at. Cleanup is the mission at Hanford and  
16 it needs to continue to be the focus of site activities. Finally, I want to  
17 make it clear that the Department of Ecology recognize the importance of these  
18 meetings and all of the various issues that FFTF brings up. We have an open  
19 mind when it comes to the public comment process, that's what it's for. We're  
20 interested in hearing your thoughts, and as I think Ernie noted, following  
21 this meeting (the fourth meeting in the series). we're basically taking all of  
22 the comments together and we'll be pulling together a Response to Comment  
23 document.

24 So in closing, I would just like to thank you all for coming. I appreciate  
you taking the time. Thanks.

27 Pat Serie:

28 Thanks, Roger. Let me just point out that if you've just come in and haven't  
29 yet signed up to make public comment or if you change your mind during the  
30 process, at either table the sign-up sheets will remain active, so I know  
31 there have been people coming in the last few minutes. We want to be sure we  
32 get everyone who wants to be on the record. Mr. deBruler.

34 Greg deBruler:

35 Well, we just had a sales pitch by the Department of Energy telling you why  
36 it's necessary to use. Hello? Hello? Either Frank. We're on ready?  
37 Actually, I'm glad we weren't on, I'll start again. I've been working on  
38 Hanford issues since 1989 and I'm sitting up here and I just had a flashback  
39 that this was 1989, not 1998. So I want to give you a little history and I  
40 want to give you a commitment that was made to us not only once, but twice,  
41 and then not only twice, but three times. In 1989, Secretary Watkins came out  
42 to the Northwest for one reason--because he was going to be involved with the  
43 signing of this historical document called the Tri-Party Agreement. And it  
44 was a cleanup agreement--to clean up the Hanford Site because it's the most  
45 hazardous radioactively-contaminated site in North America. They signed this  
46 historical document in 1989, and why was it historical?

002389

For 50 years the Department of Energy lived under secrecy. They weren't accountable to anybody. They had a black box, they could spend as much money as they want. We never had a chance to look. In 1989 that changed. Secretary of Energy Watkins said real clearly, that there is no further mission at Hanford of production, that the mission of Hanford is cleanup. And that mission was probably the best thing that ever happened to the Tri-Cities, because it not only assured them that they would have 30 years of a legal binding agreement, but it almost assures them that they'll have 30 years of a billion, to two billion, to three billion dollars a year when they start vitrifying the waste to clean up the mess. I think that was a pretty good deal. Keep in mind that the mission was cleanup; and then in 1990, and this is quoted out of a document by the Tri-Party agencies (this is actually probably the Washington State Department of Ecology), in their document Hanford in Context, Public Principles Guide the New Mission. It states in bullets, "Cleanup mission--Hanford's mission to produce nuclear weapons material has ended." This is the State Department of Ecology saying this. It's over folks, Hanford's main mission is now environmental cleanup and waste management. Even the State Department of Ecology in Washington agreed to the new mission, and said yes, we're going to enforce this new mission.

"Hanford's mission" (another quote out of this), "in 1990 the Secretary of Energy declared Hanford's missions would be cleanup and the Department's goal was to release the site for other purposes once cleanup was complete." Secretary of Energy Watkins left and a new Secretary of Energy came in. She did some wonderful things and she did something that I wasn't too happy about. When she came into office, one of her primary objectives was to change to culture of the Department of Energy. She created a document called the Openness Initiative, which means that the Department of Energy is going to be accountable, they're going to be open, they're going to listen to the taxpayers, and they're going to involve you in the decision-making because they realize that you are the taxpayer. So, in 1993 she came into office. Remember what Mr. Hughes said, that they couldn't find a mission for FFTF for years. They went out to the private sector trying to find somebody that could possibly use this reactor. There was no cost, it was economically unfeasible to start the reactor up, they couldn't find a mission for it. Because of that, the Department of Energy said, OK, we tried, but now we're going to concede; we do not need this reactor. We are going to put it into the Tri-Party Agreement and we will decommission it. And they signed, like Mr. Hughes said, milestones to decommission the reactor.

In 1994, I think it was '94, Secretary O'Leary at Hanford Summit One, clearly stated there is no further production mission at Hanford--it is cleanup. So why are we here? We're here because the Tri-Party agencies, and please keep in mind, Tri-Party means what? United States Department of Ecology, United States Department of Energy, and hey, somebody's missing--and the Environmental Protection Agency--are part of the Tri-Party Agreement. But you see the EPA isn't here; you know why? Because they don't want to get into a political debate in the community that they live in. Why? Well, because this

1 is a dicey issue because everybody knows the commitment that both Secretaries  
2 of Energy made and that the Governor, oh pardon me, that the government of  
3 Washington made, and so what we're proposing here is they say to us that, well  
4 when there is a formal process to consider or if we're going to use FFTF  
5 formal process, will this informal process that we have here right now is  
6 costing you American taxpayers 64 million dollars of cleanup funds already to  
7 date, because Secretary of Energy O'Leary at the last minute, before she left  
8 office said: Oh, I had enough pressure from people that really wanted to get  
9 this reactor started and we'll just consider it. That was her little gratis  
10 to the communities. Well, I'm appalled and I'll tell you why I'm appalled to  
11 have to read this. We need to remember that the money the Department of  
12 Energy is spending is your discretionary tax dollars and you have a say of how  
13 this money should be spent. These agencies are accountable to the taxpayer,  
14 and under U.S. DOE's commitments (under Openness Initiative) they must respond  
15 to your commitments in a timely manner and explain how they incorporated your  
16 advice, your opinions, your direction in their decision. And if they did not,  
17 they need to explain the rationale for not incorporating it, incorporating  
18 your advice in their decision.  
19

20 What does this mean for us real simply? It means the comments that you make  
21 tonight, the Tri-Party agents have to explain to you if they do delete the  
22 milestones and they have to have a rationale for it and I'll tell you what,  
23 there isn't a rationale for it. This meeting tonight is a test for all three  
24 agencies to see if they're truly listening to the advice given from their  
25 ultimate customer, and that's the U.S. taxpayer. It's not a bunch of cold war  
26 cronies that want to make a reactor start running at Hanford for it to save  
27 a production mission. The current TPA FF change package that we're here to  
28 comment tonight on, we aren't here to talk about medical isotopes. We aren't  
29 here to talk about tritium. We're here to comment to the Tri-Party agencies.  
30 Should they take FFTF out of the Tri-Party Agreement? I say this wholesale  
31 slaughter of the Tri-Party Agreement literally says, OK folks, we'll let them  
32 have FFTF so let's just rip up the Tri-Party Agreement and anything else you'd  
33 like to order? Hey, you want to run FMEF, which is a facility that they don't  
34 talk to you about that has to fabricate the fuel? They don't tell you about  
35 that. But this is a wholesale slaughter and the other point is it breaks the  
36 commitment that the only mission of Hanford is cleanup. It increases the  
37 public's distrust of the United States Department of Energy by breaking their  
38 prior commitment.  
39

40 I want to tell you, folks, that we will have an option. If they decide to  
41 consider this (excuse me, it just cost you 64 million dollars), but if they  
42 do, they're gonna spend millions of dollars more considering this. Well, I  
43 think they should get the message really flat out clear, you ain't gonna break  
44 your commitment; stop the lying, get on track, clean up Hanford. The other  
45 piece is this, it produces more radioactive waste with a disposal cost that  
46 have been estimated to cost up to 91 million dollars if they do this proposal,  
47 not just FFTF, but FMEF. It decreases the state's leverage for the successful  
cleanup of the Hanford Site. Why? Because now all of a sudden they just

amended the Tri-Party Agreement by deleting it all out, and it gives no assurance that this reactor will ever be decommissioned or will ever be put back into the Tri-Party Agreement. So tonight, folks, the question is: should they be allowed to become liars? And should they be allowed to renege on their commitment and delete the milestones out of the TPA? That's what you need to tell these people. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Let me make one more brief announcement. The formal public comment period on the milestone changes as proposed ends the 20th of February. The written comment forms that are here should be returned by then if possible or any other form of comment. Correct, Roger? The 20th is what we ... good. OK. Now we're going to take 15 minutes for clarifying questions, and we have a mic here or you can come on up to the podium if you'd like.

Question #1 from audience:

My name is Cindy Blythe and I have a question. Throughout this process, the original process, again was a unilateral decision by Hazel O'Leary (as I understand it) to take FFTF and put it on standby. Then we have a hearing, a set of hearings, which each time there's been a hearing, there's been a slight change in the format of the hearing, so every time it's slightly modified from the previous hearing. Now we discovered last week that there was a possibility that the comments might not, the comments that didn't specifically address the TPA, might not be included. And tonight we hear that any comment will be included. We also heard tonight that the Secretary of Energy may be making this decision so it appears that the Secretary of Energy may be making a unilateral decision on this regardless of the public comment. So I want to guarantee, I wanna know for sure. The public comments that are coming, you had thousands and thousands and thousands of public comments against the FFTF, against the TPA, I want some guarantee from you that you are going to consider these and that they're not going to go to some intern back in Washington, DC. I think to Ernie and Roger probably.

Ernie Hughes:

I don't know any interns in Washington, DC, except when I read the paper. The FFTF--that's a good point, it's a fair point. We have been, I think, consistent in our commitment that the comments that address the TPA milestones all get addressed by the Tri-Party agencies. The comments that are on national policy are far beyond our purview in the Richland area. However, what we did commit to, and have consistently committed to, and I will commit to again now--all comments, national policy and all, will be sent back to Washington to the Department of Energy and for the, they'll be sent to the Office of Nuclear Energy who deals directly with the Secretary. So we will send them all back to Washington.

Greg deBruler:

I need to clarify something. Ernie, one of the questions that she asked, which I didn't think I got an answer to was, will the Tri-Party, this is an

002389

1 FFTF change package to the TPA. I'm great that the Secretary of Energy Peña  
and his people will get the comments also. Will the Tri-Party Agreement  
agencies evaluate each comment to then decide should they modify the TPA,  
4 should they delete the TPA, or should they do whatever?  
5

6 Ernie Hughes:

7 Speaking for the Department of Energy, the Tri-Party agencies will review each  
8 comment that addresses the TPA changes.  
9

10 Greg deBruler:

11 OK. So what he is saying to you, public, is this. There were 450 people that  
12 spoke in Seattle, not spoke, that were at the meeting in Seattle there was 300  
13 in Portland, and 175 in Richland, or whatever the numbers were, and a lot of  
14 people commented. So, therefore, all those people who said: Oh, ya know, we  
15 don't need tritium, we don't want tritium, we don't want medical isotopes, or  
16 whatever that was, and they didn't use word TPA, they're going to ignore the  
17 comments. Excuse me, the commitment for Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary  
18 said real simply that they will listen to the public, they will consider the  
19 information that they have, and that they will make an evaluation on this.  
20 Now that's for you, for DOE. I'm glad you're going to do part of that, but  
21 for the Tri-Party agencies, Roger Stanley and Mike Wilson, I would like to  
22 hear your comment of how you're going to take the comments that people made,  
23 because keep in mind that if somebody says no, we don't want tritium, what are  
24 they saying? They're saying, no, we don't want FFTF and we want it  
25 decommissioned and cleaned up. That's the logical, so I would like a comment  
from you.

28 Roger Stanley:

29 First of all, I'd like to say that I've been at all four of these meetings,  
30 and I've listened to every comment. Every comment is going to be transcribed,  
31 every comment is going to be collated. I don't care what it addresses, every  
32 comment. I will go over every comment made and consider every comment made  
33 before making any decisions about the TPA proposal.  
34

35 Greg deBruler:

36 Roger represents the State Department of Ecology and he's the lead person for  
37 the TPA for the state. However, we have somebody missing here. EPA isn't  
38 here and EPA is not hearing your comments. EPA, the manager of EPA, was a  
39 long-time worker at Hanford and doesn't want to get into this political  
40 debate, so therefore we are being outnumbered right now, folks.  
41

42 Roger Stanley:

43 Let me note one other thing, OK? The Department of Ecology is going to  
44 consider every comment made. We also recognize that there are large political  
45 issues that go beyond the Department of Ecology as well, so every comment made  
46 is going to be forwarded to Governor Locke as well.  
47  
48

Question #2 from audience:

I don't know if this is working, but I'd like to know what radioactive material will be produced if this project goes online and what are the half-lives of that material?

Ernie Hughes:

We have a complete listing of the waste streams that will be generated on an annual basis. I can't quote them to you obviously from the top of my head; however, they are available. We have 60 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel a year. We will have certain amounts of low-level waste, there's no high-level nuclear waste, the spent nuclear fuel is in a different category. But we do have all those numbers, I can make them available to you and will be happy to do that, be happy to make them to you or anybody else.

Question from audience:

Inaudible

Ernie Hughes:

There will be plutonium. It's in the tens of thousands of years.

Question from audience:

Tens of thousands? Is it in the hundred thousand years? I mean, you ought to know, it's your project. It's a simple question for plutonium, which is the most toxic substance known to man. What's the half-life?

Ernie Hughes:

My recollection is the, the levels we're talking about is in the 40,000 year.

Question from audience:

40,000?

Pat Serie:

OK. Thank you, sir. We need ten more minutes for questions before we move into public comment, so can move to the next questioner, please?

Greg deBruler:

Regarding your question about waste. If they do processing of, pardon me, if they use plutonium in the reactor, which they don't really talk about here, they talk about tritium. The low-level waste being processed, for the cost of disposal of new waste from the plutonium processing in FFTF options would be for plutonium processing would be 2,062 metric tons they would produce. Cost for that cleanup is estimated at the 58.9 million dollars. Mixed TRU waste, which is hazardous TRU waste, would be 200 metric tons, cost of about 7.2 million dollars to clean up. And the transuranic waste, which is TRU waste, they call it, is 654 metric tons at about a cost of about 25 million dollars to clean up the waste stream. So hopefully that helps you. And plutonium, some of the isotopes, one of the longest ones is what,

002389

240,000 years. So just to get off of 40,000 years, I don't know which isotope you want. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Let me, one more thing, just, there are a lot of people over by the door. There are quite a few seats still available if people want to come and sit down. Sir.

Question #3 from audience:

Thank you very much. My name is Raymond Isaacson. I live sometimes in Richland and sometimes in Rochester, Washington, over south Olympia, I'm awfully close to home base of the Governor. In the numbers that were quoted here, I have to ask for clarification. According to the numbers I have, in 1990, Nuclear Energy requested 80 million dollars from Congress for the support of the FFTF reactor in standby. In 1991, Congress granted 84 million dollars, but that was moved from Nuclear Energy to EM. And again, in 1992, 79 million dollars were budgeted for EM. In 1997, 31 million dollars, that's 53 million dollars less than NE gave up, went back to NE again for surveillance of the reactor. And in all cases these monies were used for surveillance and some clean up, and some of the money was retained, and so I want to make sure that we clarify this record. Because I understand that there was a letter written to Gerald Pollet April 1, 1997, that put this issue in its proper perspective, and yet I hear other numbers being bantied about here that money from cleanup is being given to Nuclear Energy. When in reality it came from Nuclear Energy to begin with and now it's being rebudgeted, but all dollars that are being rebudgeted go into one column or the other column primarily for the maintenance and the standby operations of the reactor. So I think that we're having politeness speak out of both sides of its face sometimes, and I think we need to clarify that record that the dollars are there, whether they're in one column or another column, and whatever we call them, we haven't increased or taken away from clean up per se. And I think that we need to refer to Grumbly's letter in that regard. With respect to ...

Pat Serie:

Someone, oh, excuse me, do any of you want to respond to that?

Ernie Hughes:

Very quickly, the FFTF had operational dollars from the Department, Office of Nuclear Energy, up through 1991. In 1991, the operations dollars were shifted to the Office of Environmental Management because they became the site landlord. Funding for FFTF, both for operation and then ultimately for surveillance and maintenance, is budgeted each year. It's been done through EM for the past few years. The budget has gone forward from the Department of Energy through the Office of Management and Budget to the Congress and has been approved for FFTF specifically. No funds were taken specifically from other cleanup projects, it was specific funding approval for FFTF. Thank you.



Pat Serie:

All right. Let's go to Paige, please. I'm sorry, Mr. Isaacson. One question per questioner, please.

Question #3 from audience (cont'd):

I understand that, but with respect to the generation of plutonium, as I understand it, if they use a mixed oxide fuel they will actually be reducing the plutonium inventory rather than adding to the inventory. And I would ask the gentleman at the table to answer that question.

Ernie Hughes:

It's a mixed oxide fuel. The plutonium would be used from the surplus weapons plutonium and that would be that part of the disposition process.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Ernie. Paige Leven. Excuse me, Dirk wants to add to that.

Dirk Dunning:

Are we there yet? Ah, there we go. Once again, I'm Dirk Dunning with the State of Oregon and we're kind of outside the process, but FFTF happens to be one that we've looked into a fair amount. In the operation of the reactor, the net quantity of plutonium would increase. The net quantity of plutonium-239, I'm not sure if it would go up, down, or stay approximately the same. One of the disturbing things though about that is I was reading today in some information that came out of Los Alamos is that not only is that plutonium useable in weapons, it is more useable in weapons.

Pat Serie:

OK. Paige.

Question #4 from audience:

My question is for Ernie Hughes. Ernie, following the Tri-Cities hearing, you spoke with a woman, Laurie Higgins, and I spoke with her. She called our office after you spoke with her. She told me that in regards to this comment period and these hearings that this decision was, she said you said, quote: "A no-brainer." That the decision had already been made and furthermore that the only reason that these public hearings were being held was because you were legally bound to do so. That sounds to me like the decision's been made; these people are wasting their time here. So I want to know, what did you mean by that if you meant that, I mean, I want to know if you meant that, you know, the decision's been made, then why are these people here? And if not, what did you mean by that?

Ernie Hughes:

The discussion went on, she wanted us to come over to Whitman College. We talked about the meeting in Richland, I said that the, that the, at all the meetings the discussions focused on the national policy issues, whereas the issues with the Tri-Party milestones were very simple, and to the point of

002388

being a no-brainer, in that, in that, with the Tri-Party we have three options. I'll tell you, we have three options: either to ignore the milestones and run over them, to delete the milestones, or to defer the milestones. Because the Secretary of Energy, within her legal purview, took the facility out of deactivation and put it in standby, so we had to shut down the work. We can't make the milestones. So the milestone's issues is fairly straightforward. The national policy issues are very complex.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Ernie. We have three minutes left for questions before we go to public comment, so let's speed along. Sir.

Question #5 from audience:

I have a simple question for Pat Serie, yes or no answer will do. Was the people of the Tri-Cities given a chance to comment before the shutdown milestones were added to the Tri-Party Agreement in 1990?

Pat Serie:

Roger, do you want to comment on that?

Roger Stanley:

Yes, we went through a public comment period. I have to go back and check to see where the public meetings were held. But in every instance that I've gone through so far, at least one of them has been in the Tri-Cities.

Pat Serie:

Sir, one more.

Question #6 from audience:

I just have one simple question. My understanding I guess, if it's correct, is this consists of Washington State Department of Ecology, right? And the Department of Energy. And I sure would like some real direct answers. I'd like to know why EPA is not here, and I'm aware, as it was stated by one of you guys, that if this thing goes further, there will be an Environmental Impact Statement. That answer isn't good enough. Those guys ought to be here, political hot cake or not, and I would just like to ... Tell me why EPA isn't here, and if they aren't, maybe why you guys didn't encourage them to come, or you did, or just tell me what's going, because I honestly don't know.

Roger Stanley:

From a Tri-Party Agreement standpoint, the way we address all the various Hanford cleanup projects is on a lead regulatory agency basis. So State of Washington is lead for FFTF, we were lead when it was put into the TPA, we're still lead, and EPA has the lead for other projects. And the basic lead regulatory agency agreement between the Washington Department of Ecology and the U.S. EPA is that the nonlead agency doesn't assign any staff to it.

Question from audience:

I guess it's just rather strange to me. I mean, I understand that these are very complex issues and you guys are trying to do the best you can and everything, but sometimes it's time to maybe take a look to the outside and simplify things a little bit. It is a three-party agreement and I empathize with what you're coming from, but please, next time around, bring those guys in. I think it would make the public happy.

Pat Serie:

Greg, did you want to follow up on that?

Greg deBruler:

Roger said it one way. I want to say it just a little bit differently. Every meeting that has ever been held on a Tri-Party issue since 1989, and I've been to too many of them, the Tri-Party agencies were all represented. EPA was at every meeting. The reason why EPA is not here is because they don't want to face the political flack. That's the bottom line, they're ducking. Now, the problem with it is this, if they gotta arm wrestle DOE, Department of Ecology, Department of Energy, and EPA, if they gotta arm wrestle, you got two arms over there that are going, well hey, we'll just delete it, and you got one arm going no, no, no, who's gonna win? It's a very poor representation; in fact, I would all encourage you to write letters to the head of the EPA, to the Governor of Washington, and tell them that you're appalled that the Tri-Party agencies are not represented at any of these meetings.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Greg.

Greg deBruler:

Just one quick thing. My comment just gets back to, you know with regards to everybody's comments here, I mean, you guys really have an obligation, a moral obligation, to have the three parties involved, whether you're gonna agree or it's gonna create hot cakes or not. So please, next time along, let's get all three here.

Pat Serie:

You know, I'm sorry, but we're going to move to public comment and I apologize, but we need to. Ernie has one clarification on something that he said earlier.

Ernie Hughes:

I'm sorry. I made a misstatement when talking about the spent nuclear fuel. I said there was 60 metric tons a year. The 60 metric tons over the life of the facility, it's two metric tons per year for those of you who are taking notes. I want to clarify that. Thank you.

002389

002389

1 Pat Serie:

2 OK. Now as I said earlier, this is the true purpose of the evening is to hear  
3 from everyone here. These guys have proved before, they will stay until they  
4 have heard everyone who wants to go on record. I'm going to call the first  
5 person up and then the next three people so that you can please be ready. You  
6 may speak either at this mic or at the podium over here. I'd remind you that  
7 if you're representing an organization, please state that up front and I'll  
8 give you five minutes; and if you're not, I'll ask you to finish up after  
9 three. So our first speaker tonight is Raymond Isaacson, followed by  
10 Paige Leven, Evelyn Isaacson, and Ken Dobbin.  
11

12 Raymond Isaacson:

13 Thank you. For the record my name is Raymond Isaacson ...

002390

14 END OF TAPE  
15

16  
17 Raymond Isaacson:

18 ... I'm retired, and I reside at 2106 Lee Boulevard, Richland,  
19 Washington, 99352. We make this statement jointly in support of the  
20 preservation, maintenance, protection, and restart of the Fast Flux Test  
21 Facility, FFTF. The Tri-Party milestones for the FFTF were established  
22 prematurely, without considering the potential and beneficial production of  
23 medical isotopes that have proven so effective in curing cancer and treating  
24 other human afflictions. Because the milestones were premature, it is  
25 appropriate to delete them from the Tri-Party Agreement. The next steps  
26 should include the preparation of the environmental statement for restarting  
27 the facility to make isotopes that are necessary for the well-being of the  
28 citizens of the United States. Destruction of the FFTF would be a criminal  
29 act (see Benton County Resolution Number 95414, dated October 20, 1995). A  
30 copy is attached for you reference and that would indeed be a criminal act,  
31 and those people who would make that decision would be responsible for that  
32 action.  
33

002390

34 We are aware of the "negaholics" who rail against all things nuclear and  
35 attempt to mislead the public using false issues, misinformation, uninformed  
36 statements, and unfortunately, out-right lies. We sympathize with those who  
37 are faced with ferreting out the truth. We are particularly ashamed that a  
38 person in a very responsible position in the medical school of my alma mater,  
39 the University of Washington, attested to the audience at the hearing in  
40 Seattle that there were no shortages of radioisotopes for cancer research.  
41 She spoke with apparent authority; yet she did not tell the audience that the  
42 research work of Dr. Sally J. Denardo, Nuclear Medicine Radiology Department,  
43 University of California Davis Medical Center, was stopped because of the lack  
44 of availability of enough of the isotope copper-67, and her forte is breast  
45 cancer, as an example.  
46

47 Richard Gates attempted to get isotope treatment in Seattle for prostate  
48 cancer and was advised that there are no isotopes available in the Seattle

3 area. His father Ted R. Gates, 441 S. Buchanan Place, Kennewick, Washington,  
4 can verify this statement. There are innumerable untold cases where people  
5 who want to cure their cancers with isotopes just cannot get them. Certainly  
6 the faculty of one of the top-rated medical schools in the United States  
7 should not be so uninformed that they would expose themselves in the public  
8 forum to their lack of information, or in this case, perhaps personal bias.  
9 Persons in such prestigious positions who are expected to lead the world in  
10 medical research should be most concerned with the discovery of the truth and  
11 the development of methods to cure diseases. Medical isotopes have shown us  
12 new promises and have cured such incurable diseases as pancreatic cancer,  
13 which to this date, has very little success of living, if you have that.

14 Pat Serie:

15 Mr. Isaacson, you need to finish, please.

16 Raymond Isaacson:

17 I have one quick statement, if I may. Those who advocate for the destruction  
18 of the Fast Flux Test Facility would be responsible for the untimely death of  
19 millions of people and there will be others who will speak to that issue,  
20 because it is a fact.

21 Pat Serie:

22 Please let him finish.

23 Raymond Isaacson:

24 I would appreciate your, I would appreciate your politeness, and the rude  
25 shouting is not appropriate to an informed audience. There are many people  
26 who could not attend this, or previous hearings, some of their signatures are  
27 here with me for the record ...

28 Pat Serie:

29 Mr. Isaacson, I'm sorry, your time is complete. Please stop, OK?

30 Raymond Isaacson:

31 For the record, in addition, I have signatures of concerned citizens who  
32 strongly support the future operations of the Fast Flux Test Facility are  
33 included ...

34 Pat Serie:

35 Mr. Isaacson, I'm sorry, sir. Your time is up.

36 Raymond Isaacson:

37 ... signatures ... advocacy of medical isotopes in curing cancer. I submit  
38 this for the record.

39 Pat Serie:

40 Thank you. Paige Leven is next, followed by Evelyn Isaacson, Ken Dobbin, and  
41 Laurel Piippo, please.

002391

Paige Leven:

Hello. My name is Paige Leven and I'm from Seattle, but I'm going to, because I've had a chance to speak, I'm going to defer my time to someone who is from this area.

Marybeth Condon:

My name is Marybeth Condon. I live in Goldendale, Washington, that's about 70 miles downriver from Hanford. Gentlemen, I do not have a death wish, and I'm convinced that I stand with the majority of American and world citizens who are opposed to the production and proliferation of nuclear weapons. Therefore, I oppose the violation of the Tri-Party Agreement by former Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and the Department of Energy, and any changes in the milestones to that agreement. I oppose the production of tritium at the Fast Flux Test Facility at Hanford, the Savannah River Nuclear Plant in South Carolina, or the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. I oppose the Department of Energy's MOX Program, and any and all proposals or strategies that permit the national or international transport and reprocessing of spent nuclear materials. I oppose President Clinton's recent budget allotment of discretionary tax dollars to keep Hanford FFTF on hot standby at the cost of 32 million dollars per year. I oppose the scandalous public relations propaganda being foisted on the American people by the Department of Energy, private nuclear interests, and my own Congressional representatives, Representative Richard (Doc) Hastings and Senators Patty Murray and Slade Gorton, contending that nuclear bomb production can be legitimized by the off-shoot industry of medical isotope production in a cancer research mission.

002392

I oppose any and all privatizing schemes of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The containment of nuclear waste demands the participation of the American public and in no way should be assets of our nuclear legacy be handed over as subsidies to the military industrial complex, or private nuclear corporations. And last, I oppose the amoral greed of TRIDEC, which is the Tri-Cities Economic Development Consortium. The containment of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation has cost and will continue to cost the American taxpayers billions of dollars. Surely, there is enough money in cleanup for jobs and to line the pockets of economic interests in the Tri-Cities.

OK. I'm hot now, I'm tired, as a matter of a fact. I'm, this is very short. It's a little early in the evening for poetry, but as an artist, I believe that art is better than death, and so I would like to read a poem by the great Israeli poet, Yahuta Amaki. The poem is called "The Place Where We Were Right:"

From the place where we were right, flowers will never grow in the spring  
The place where we were right, is hard and trampled like a yard.  
But doubts and loves dig up the world like a mole or a plow  
And a whisper will be heard in the place where the ruined house once stood.

1 I want to thank everybody who came and spoke against this. Thank you very  
much.

4 Pat Serie:

5 OK. Mrs. Isaacson,. Then we have Ken Dobbin, Laurel Piippo, and  
6 Harold Anderson, please.  
7

8 Evelyn Isaacson:

9 I would like to read this letter that my son, who's a medical doctor in  
10 Richland, would like to present to you: I want to express my support for the  
11 very important mission of medical isotope production for FFTF. The decision  
12 to terminate this important facility was made before it was appreciated as  
13 being a unique and already existing source for cancer treatment. The research  
14 now being done is elegant in its approach, promises unique effectiveness  
15 against cancer, and cannot be done as efficiently or economically anywhere  
16 else. To continue down the path of closure would truly squander a national  
17 resource. Treating cancer with isotope-tagged antibodies against specific  
18 cancers holds the promise for effective therapies that are not associated with  
19 the same kind of complications and side effects as current systemic  
20 chemotherapy and external beam radiation. Eric B. Isaacson, Fellow, American  
21 Academy of Family Physicians; Fellow, American Board of Family Practice;  
22 Member, American Medical Association; Member, Washington State Medical  
23 Association; Member, Benton-Franklin County Medical Association. Thank you.  
24

002393

25 Pat Serie:

26 Thank you, Mrs. Isaacson. Ken Dobbin and then Laurel Piippo, Harold Anderson,  
and I believe it's Son Willett.

28 Ken Dobbin:

29 Would anyone here tonight pass up the opportunity to save the lives of  
30 possibly 50,000 American men, women, and children? What if you find out in  
31 the future that you, that the greater number here are wrong, and that the FFTF  
32 could have saved that number every year? I don't know how any of you could  
33 live with yourself with that. And what I want to do, to tell you tonight, are  
34 the false statements that are being made about the FFTF that may lead you to  
35 that guilt-ridden conclusion. Various agencies have said that the FFTF is not  
36 safe, not economic, and not needed. And there's been many false statements  
37 including Dirk Dunning, I'm sure that you really know better about plutonium  
38 when you spoke false statements this evening. Well, not only are they wrong,  
39 not only are they wrong, but they have lost all their credibility. The  
40 organizations that have said that this facility's not needed; there's already  
41 shortages of copper-67 for breast cancer therapy and palladium-103 for  
42 prostate cancer.  
43

002394

44  
45 The second thing they refused to do is to listen when we tried to explain the  
46 unparalleled safety of the FFTF. I was on the team that during its ten years  
47 operation measured the safety, calibrated our calculational techniques, and  
48 have shown that under the most hypothetical event, the containment is not

3 challenged and the public is protected. Even your Senator Wyden can't tell  
4 you that about his nerve gas stored at Umatilla. Thirdly, the future  
5 missions, if you don't want this facility to be funded by the defense mission,  
6 there are other alternatives. The President, in his State of the Union  
7 address, said we're going to have a budget surplus. For the cost of this, of  
8 the cancer in the United States, 400 million, 400 billion, the 104 billion  
9 that we spend every year is \$400 for every man, woman, and child. That, for  
10 30 cents, you could run the FFTF.

11 It's becoming apparent to me that what's happening here is that there's a  
12 developing opposition to those of us cancer fighters who want to use this  
13 facility as a tool. And the people behind that, the uh, Heart of America, the  
14 Government Accountability Project, even Senator Wyden, and former  
15 Senator Hatfield, are using false statements to try to get this facility  
16 stopped. Whether you like it or not, as you hear that the FFTF can save  
17 lives, you become part of the battle. You're either helping fight cancer or  
18 not. God help you if you let the cancer sufferers die.

19 Pat Serie:

20 Thank you, Mr. Dobbin. Laurel Piippo, and then Harold Anderson, Son Willett,  
21 and David Swanberg, please.

22 Laurel Piippo:

23 I am not a member of any organization. I've been involved in cancer issues  
24 since 1989. I am dismayed that I hear a lot of laughter every time a cure for  
25 cancer related to FFTF is mentioned. I've heard that this is a dog-and-pony  
26 show. I'm not a dog or a pony, and neither are you. I'm hoping you're  
27 compassionate, thinking human beings who aren't so locked into one point of  
28 view that you can't consider another one. I don't like defense, tritium,  
29 weapons; they're a fact of life with the possibility for great evil. FFTF is  
30 a possibility for all good medical isotope treatment, which has been proved to  
31 be working. Don't throw out the baby with the bath water. I wrote a  
32 statement here, I also wrote a statement for my shirt when I found out that I  
33 could get a ride to come down here. I've been dealing with cancer since 1989.  
34 I don't know how many of you in this room have had to deal with  
35 life-threatening cancer and the old-fashioned horse-and-buggy methods that I  
36 have. I've had slash, which is for cancer surgeries, plus three  
37 reconstructive surgeries. I've had burn, which is old-fashion traditional  
38 radiation, which I didn't know has so many interesting side effects. I don't  
39 shake hands or applaud because one of the after-effects for women with breast  
40 cancer who have radiation, 25 percent of us get lymphedema, which means a  
41 swollen up arm. So I don't applaud or shake hands with you. I've had six  
42 months of chemotherapy, burn, poison, slash, I've had it all. They come along  
43 with the, the technicality is, I mustn't say restart FFTF, so let's be proper.  
44 Please delete the Tri-Party Agreement milestones pertaining to the closure of  
45 FFTF. Preserve the reactor for the much needed production of medical  
46 isotopes. Present supplies are insufficient for diagnosis and treatment of  
47 cancer and other difficulties. Traditional treatments for cancer are

002395



agonizingly traumatic compared to those possible with medical isotopes and so I'm calling myself an organization. I think that having had killer cancer three times, and I hope you won't find this a source of merriment as I've been hearing in this audience, and so therefore, I very much hope that if we have to have tritium, which is a fact of life, I mean come on, you've got Saddam Hussein, come on, are you telling me we don't need national defense? And we certainly do need a better, more humane treatment for cancer and FFTF is what I perceive to be an answer, although I'm not a scientist, I'm not an organization, I'm not an environmentalist, I don't have any political ax to grind--and I don't give a shit about the money.

Pat Serie:

OK. Harold Anderson is next. After Mr. Anderson, we'll have Son Willett, David Swanberg, and Georgia Talbert, please.

Harold Anderson:

My name is Harold Anderson. I'm from the city of Richland and I'm speaking as a citizen in support of the deletion of the TPA milestone pertaining to the FFTF shutdown. I grew up in Seattle for 22 years and then I have spent the last couple of decades in the Tri-Cities, in Richland. While the Tri-Cities has served the, the TPA has served the parties well, this small subset no longer apply. The FFTF option for tritium needs are decided at a higher level of authority than state. But if the FFTF is selected as an interim tritium option, it will save money. One, is because it is a built and proven facility, having established a safety record of merit during the period 1982 to 1992. Secondly, it will allow the relaxing of a 12 billion dollar construction schedule for an accelerator and give it time not only to be built, but to be proven. The FFTF can save money because it's safe. It can save money because companies like Hudson Beef and country and chicken growers like the Chinese wouldn't have had to throw away millions of pounds of beef or millions of chickens if they had a means of assuring that they were safe to eat. That they were selling dead meat without live bacteria and virus in them.

FFTF can save money by taking advantage of the peace time dividend of the plutonium stockpile and while it's burning that plutonium, it can also recycle long-lived radioactive waste. Somebody here had a good question. The answer that I have for that is to take those isotopes such as the iodine-129 with more than a thousand year half-life, the technetium-99 with the 200 thousand year half-life, recycle them through the fast flux of the operating reactor. The FFTF has the biggest fast flux in the western hemisphere. It has a tailored spectrum that can optimize the transmutation of those long-lived isotopes so that the net production of long-lived isotopes is less than without the FFTF. In other words, FFTF can help with the environmental cleanup and save money because you take a hundred thousand years and multiply it by say a million dollars a year maintenance and if you could cut that down to less than 300 years is a lot of money saved. Thank you very much for your attention.

1 Pat Serie:

2 Son Willett, then David Swanberg, then Georgia Talbert, please.

4 Son Willett:

5 Good evening. Thank you for this chance to express my support for FFTF. I 002397  
6 had worked at Hanford for 17 years as a chemical engineer. In that position I  
7 have had the opportunity to visit the FFTF, on the Hanford Site, and the  
8 Savannah River. I have learned that FFTF is the safest and cleanest plant  
9 ever operated by the Department of Energy. The design of FFTF makes it an  
10 ideal candidate for the long-term mission of producing medical isotopes and  
11 for the short-term mission of tritium production. The fact is the tritium is  
12 needed by our country. One way or another it must be produced somewhere in  
13 the U.S. FFTF offers significant advantages over other options for economic  
14 tritium production and can fulfill our need for medical isotopes. Choosing  
15 FFTF for this mission would not only save the taxpayers money, but would also  
16 help our country to catch up with Canada, Europe, and Japan in the medical  
17 isotope technology.

18  
19 Ladies and gentlemen, before coming to the U.S. I was a nurse working in the  
20 third world country hospital. I have always hoped for the day when high-tech  
21 medicine could be produced cheaply enough to be available for everyone. In  
22 this reason, I am standing here today to ask you to join me in support of the  
23 deletion of the PTA, TPA, and to clear the way for the restart of the FFTF. I  
24 want to thank you for your time and ask you to please be practical for the  
25 reason of national security, for scientific and economic reasons, and for the  
26 lives of hundreds of thousands of people who need medical isotopes. Please be  
27 concerned, please be practical, and please support FFTF. Thank you.

28  
29 Pat Serie:

30 Thank you, Ms. Willett. Next we have David Swanberg.

31  
32 Greg deBruler:

33 I need to make a comment, and this is for the people that live in the Columbia 002389  
34 River Gorge. This meeting was hosted and held because of my efforts,  
35 Greg deBruler with Columbia River United, because the Department of Energy did  
36 not want to have a meeting in Hood River. They wanted to have one in Portland  
37 and bypass Hood River and I said there's no way. So what happened tonight  
38 was, it looks like 15 to 20 people from the Tri-Cities came in so they could  
39 tell you why they want it. Now I'm very concerned because the agreement we  
40 had was that we would split the list up. We would alternate between people  
41 that came in from the Tri-Cities and people that live locally so the people  
42 that live locally could have a chance to speak. They have broken the  
43 agreement once again and they are not doing it. So please, for those who live  
44 here and that are concerned about this option to delete the milestone or leave  
45 it in, please don't leave. Stay here and hopefully the facilitator will live  
46 up to the commitment that she made.

1 Pat Serie:

2 Which involved, by the way, alternating between the two tables. We are moving  
3 right along and we are gonna hear everyone. Mr. Swanberg is next, and will be  
4 followed by Georgia Talbert, Mike Walter, and Bob Schenter, please.  
5

6 David Swanberg:

7 Thank you. My name is Dave Swanberg and I'm from the Tri-Cities. I am also  
8 here, please, I'm also here as the acting president of the Nuclear Medicine  
9 Research Council of the Tri-Cities. We're a nonprofit organization dedicated  
10 to the advancement of nuclear medicine for the treatment of cancer and other  
11 diseases. We're very serious about this. The NMRC supports removal of FFTF  
12 milestones from the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement. Another reason I'm speaking  
13 to you tonight is to make people aware that there's a problem with the  
14 availability of medical isotopes. You've already heard this tonight several  
15 times so I won't belabor the point, but it is a very real problem and it will  
16 continue to be a problem unless we take action to do something about it.  
17 Imagine that for a moment, that yourself or a loved one is diagnosed with a  
18 serious illness such as cancer. Suppose your physician discovers that nuclear  
19 medicine therapy has been very effective for patients with the same type of  
20 cancer, but you are unable to receive treatment because the isotope you need  
21 is unavailable or in short supply.  
22

23 This sounds like a serious problem that we should avoid at all costs. But the  
24 fact is, this is exactly the situation that exists right now today. For  
25 example, we heard the example about prostate cancer treatment using  
26 palladium-103 and the lack of availability of the isotope for treatment of  
27 those who wish to receive it. Another problem with the demand for  
28 radioisotopes is the demand for that particular isotope has been exploding.  
29 It has been increasing 75 percent per year for the last four years. Right now  
30 we're unable to meet the demand. What's going to happen in the next few  
31 years? More and more people will be unable to receive treatment and they'll  
32 be relegated to surgery, chemotherapy, and external beam radiotherapy. We  
33 also heard about the shortage of copper-67. Clinical trials were stopped in  
34 midway because the isotope was unavailable and the patients that were part of  
35 this critical clinical trials had to revert to standard treatments. There are  
36 many more examples of shortages of poor quality isotopes because the supply of  
37 radioisotopes for medical applications is, in a word, unreliable. United  
38 States imports 90 percent of the isotopes used in this country for medical  
39 applications. This is unacceptable if we expect to have world-class health  
40 care in this country.  
41

42 New generation therapies, using antibodies coupled to radioisotopes target and  
43 kill only diseased cells, show great promise. There are more than  
44 100 clinical trials underway right using radioisotopes for treatment of  
45 various forms of cancer. Medical uses of isotopes, both therapeutic and  
46 diagnostic, are increasing rather than decreasing and within a few years  
47 demand will easily overwhelm supplies. This problem can be avoided using the  
FFTF to produce medical isotopes. It has ample capacity to meet future demand

002398

and can supply both tritium and medical isotopes in the interim. FFTF could produce a wide variety of high-purity isotopes faster than other existing sources. Furthermore, FFTF represents a more than 1 billion dollar investment of taxpayers money, with more than 20 years useful life remaining. Every possible avenue should be pursued to restart the FFTF with the long-term goal of producing medical isotopes and thereby saving lives. I've heard a lot of people say tonight that this is somehow not a real situation, or that these treatments may not work for treatment of cancer. I don't understand what the logic is behind that. It really doesn't make sense to you, till you are touched by it or someone near you, like I have. Please. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Swanberg. Excuse me. Please respect each speaker. We have Georgia Talbert, Georgia Talbert. We have plenty of people signed up. We will be listening to everyone.

Georgia Talbert:

My name is Georgia Talbert and I'm from the Tri-Cities and I just traded with number 21. So she's there, so we'll have a little balance. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Must be Sally Newell?

Sally Newell:

Yes. Sally Newell from Underwood, Washington. I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment. We who live in the Columbia River Gorge are grateful that the agencies have heard our concerns and are responding at least to the extent that we don't have to drive to the Tri-Cities, Portland, or Seattle to comment on the fate of Hanford; a fate shared by all who love this great river, the west which defines the Pacific Northwest. I come to this hearing as a native of the Gorge, as a mother, and as the mother of a sailor in our nuclear navy. First, as a native of the Gorge, I want you to know that I have spent my adult life hoping that I would live to see Hanford cleaned up to the maximum extent possible. The signing of the Tri-Party Agreement seemed to promise that my hopes had some foundation in reality, that there really would be a serious effort to clean up Hanford. I rejoiced. Then milestones began being rearranged and U.S. DOE contractors were unable to meet timelines. Washington DOE let them fudge and the plume of deadly nuclear material kept inching closer to the river I love, the river of my life. And now the Tri-Parties want to know if I favor a change in the status of FFTF? No, I don't.

Second, as a mother, I'll tell you that when my children were told to clean up their rooms, they were not permitted to take peanut butter, jam, burnt feathers, or other messy stuff into their rooms until they were clean. Then they needed to demonstrate to me that they knew how keep from creating a new mess with that stuff. When they had 1) cleaned up the original mess, and 2) showed me that they could use messy stuff responsibly, we could engage in a

3 meaningful dialogue about the advisability of bringing such things into their  
4 rooms. U.S. DOE has not only failed to meet mom's two simple criteria, it has  
5 failed to make reasonable progress on criteria number one. I would not let  
6 U.S. DOE watch TV until it does so, and as for creating a bigger mess, we're  
7 not even ready to begin that conversation. Let me be very clear. U.S. DOE  
8 must clean up the original mess first. It promised it would and this it must  
9 do.

10 As the mother of a sailor in our nuclear navy, nobody wants our soldiers and  
11 sailors to be safe more than I do. I have not spoken to my daughter, Seaman  
12 Claire Smith of the carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower for a couple of weeks  
13 because the ship has been off the east coast on maneuvers. The last time we  
14 spoke though, she told me that the itinerary for the Mediterranean cruise she  
15 was looking forward to in June has been changed. The Ike will be leaving for  
16 the Gulf this spring. I saw my Claire in August of last year, never dreaming  
17 that, that time, that might be the last time. You get the point, I want our  
18 kids safe. I am not convinced that a restart of the poison plant at Hanford  
19 contributes to that safety, however. Are we already to the point of having to  
20 choose between a dead river or death at the hands of our enemies? I don't  
21 think so. Let them get their tritium elsewhere. I hear it's being hawked on  
22 the streets of Moscow. This madness has to stop somewhere and Hanford's as  
23 good a place to begin as I can think of. I've said it before and I'll keep  
24 saying it while I have breath to speak and the mess is still there.  
25 Washington Department of Ecology, do your job. Hold U.S. DOE accountable.  
26 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, stop letting U.S. DOE make a mockery of  
27 your very name. U.S. Department of Energy, clean up Hanford now.

28 Pat Serie:

29 OK. Anybody else want to give up their spot to a local person to make the  
30 evening go better? Great, good. Well then it's hard to tell, I have to tell  
31 you from the list, who's local and who isn't. But how about somebody who is  
32 local pop up and take Mr. Schenter's spot. Sir. Thank you. You can go on  
33 after him.

34 Audience member:

35 What's your number, Bob? You owe me. I think my number was 12 or something  
36 like that.

37 Bill Kline:

38 I live here in, I had to change this thing around a little bit. I had it all  
39 figured out until I listened to the people talking about cancer, and I want to  
40 address, um, I live here in Hood River and I have three boys. You know, I  
41 might want to hand you guys these pictures, these are my three boys. But  
42 anyway, this is something to think about. Everybody here has kids and  
43 grandchildren. There's concerns about health and there's concerns about all  
44 this stuff. First part, I want to talk about the cancer thing. Certainly, I  
45 can understand a little bit about what you're talking about. I woke up one  
46 morning not too long ago, six months ago, having a lump in the wrong place  
47

002401

3 thinking, oh my God, this must be it and I couldn't even begin to even think  
4 it could be anything else. So I spent about six hours of my life thinking  
5 about what it could be if this was the real thing and what would I do with my  
6 boys and everything else. It wasn't a very nice time, but also when I was  
7 married wasn't a very pleasant when my wife had a lump in her breast one  
8 morning. Wasn't very pleasant when my, her mom's boyfriend who I'm very close  
9 to this very day, had bowel cancer. Or when a former boss I worked with had  
10 bowel cancer. And later on for some reason, I became a fan of a gentleman  
11 named Paul Pearsol who's written some books, mostly family therapy type books,  
12 marriage stuff, and all that. He wrote a thing on miracles about his battle  
13 with cancer and having, you know, the necessity of isotopes and everything  
14 else.

15 So, I really empathize with you guys and the cancer issue. But you know,  
16 there is also something about prevention too that we have to think about. You  
17 know, obviously there may be a supply problem like the other woman said, but  
18 we gotta clean the place up first. And you know, if we really want to do  
19 something about cancer, maybe we could ban public smoking in all public  
20 buildings, we could do that here, we could do that everywhere, we could clean  
21 up the air, we could clean up the water, we could do a lot of those things to  
22 cut it down. It may not solve the immediate problem of isotopes, but it sure  
23 would help. And of course, our personal health habits which are our own  
24 business.

25 But outside of that, I just want to address that issue and obviously it's a  
26 matter of concern. But it does get back to the thing that, you know, the same  
27 thing with my kids, you know, they've gotta clean up their mess first. The  
28 big picture here is guys, you know, regardless of what's going on, and I want  
29 to address this to the panel, you know, it's just that you gotta keep your  
30 word on this thing. You sign an agreement and my kids and everybody else's  
31 kids, we're gonna be thinking about honesty here. This goes past all the  
32 complex issues, which I said I empathized with before, I mean, keep your word  
33 and please clean the place up. That's all we're asking. I know it's going to  
34 be a long process, it's not going to kill the economy of you guys in Richland  
35 if you don't get it, don't get this thing right now. There may be other ways  
36 of finding the thing, I don't know. But for God's sakes, maybe you're  
37 responsible for the mess or not if you work up there, live there, I don't  
38 know. But can't we just please clean it up first? And then once we get the  
39 job going, let's talk about it? Thank you.

40  
41 Pat Serie:

42 OK. Bob Schenter is going to be followed by Elizabeth See and then  
43 Gary Troyer, and then we'll talk.

44  
45 Bob Schenter:

46 I'm Bob Schenter and I think you gave me an excellent introduction. I think  
47 we need to, and I want to, you may be getting tired of it, but it's an  
extremely important point about the use of FFTF to make medical isotopes. I'm

002402

speaking for myself. I was going to speak for the Nuclear Medicine Research Council, which I'm a member, but that's already been taken. My daughter lives in Portland. She asked me to come here and talk. I'm a grandfather, my grandchildren live in the Tri-Cities. There are 1,500 people a day dying of cancer, so we've gotta get on with it. I don't want to wait to clean up Hanford before we get on with making medical isotopes. We gotta get on with it now. I'd like to show a couple viewgraphs relating to the production of isotopes. It's been in the past hearing stated that there was not a need. Dr. Janet Eary said there's not a need for medical isotopes, she gets all she wants; but she only is involved with a single isotope called iodine-131. Iodine-131 cannot be used to treat children because it gives off a gamma ray and you need lead-lined rooms so there are other isotopes that we need to make. And I would like to just show you in my time what can be made in FFTF and their medical application.

This is a list and this will be put in the record. There are a number of different types of cancer. Not just non-hodgkin lymphoma, which is very important to treat, which Dr. Eary is treating. But there's breast cancer, there's prostate cancer. There's a number of cancers, there's bone cancer pain relief, which is not an isotope that Dr. Eary uses. So the point is that today we need these medical isotopes. We are asking with FFTF, a very, very small fraction of what's being paid for cleanup, dealing with something that's killing 1,500 people a day. One last fact, for children's cancer, there is one isotope called bismuth-213, again this is not what Dr. Eary is dealing with and be happy to put this in the record. They are currently doing trials for acute myelogenous leukemia and the American Cancer Society, if you look at that, the five year survival rate for children from 0 to 15 years old, is 37 percent. What that says is, you do a little arithmetic, 63 percent of those children cannot get through five years. We've gotta get going on making medical isotopes, making them available today.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Schenter. OK. Elizabeth See. After Elizabeth, we will have Gary Troyer and Gene Rupel, please.

Elizabeth See:

Hello. I'm Elizabeth See and I am as opposed to cancer as anybody out there I'm sure, but I have a different approach. I think the most effective way to reduce cancer is to clean up the radiation which causes cancer and to keep it from leaching into the river. So that when we go and play in the river, we don't come down with different various forms of malignancies, and lumps, and tumors, and cancers, and to put this on the record, I am opposed to the change to the Tri-Party Agreement. And I want to leave the FFTF in the Tri-Party Agreement and close it down. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Ms. See. Mr. Troyer. You'll be right after Mr. Troyer. Sorry, Mr. Rupel.

002403

1 Gary Troyer:

2 Thank you. Gary Troyer, Richland, Washington. I'm in favor of deleting the  
3 Tri-Party Agreement milestones regarding the FFTF, in order that this taxpayer  
4 owned valuable facility can proceed toward a life-saving mission of generating  
5 medical isotopes for an aging population. One concern against this sort of  
6 operation, as expressed by the critiques, is a perception of radiation has a  
7 hazard at any level. Shown before you, is a USGS map of the radiation at  
8 ground level across the U.S.: red being high and the blue around the edge  
9 being low. Next slide that I have here shows the mortality of cancer across  
10 the United States per capita by county. The green being below normal, blue  
11 being normal, and red being hot. Looks to me like a Rocky Mountain high might  
12 be a good thing to do to save some lives with cancer; go live where there's a  
13 little bit more radiation. Hey, it's there. That is it. That is the total.  
14

15 Pat Serie:

16 Please go on, Mr. Troyer. Please go on.  
17

18 Gary Troyer:

19 Next slide, please. Here's some further mined data from the record. This  
20 data is gleaned by Dr. Bernard Collin. It's in the literature, it's peer  
21 reviewed, it is corrected for smoker data. It shows the negative correlation  
22 between radon, which the EPA says you should mitigate, and cancer mortality;  
23 therefore, at a certain level you can see that there appears to be, I'm not  
24 proposing that this is true, but there appears to be a benefit from a certain  
amount of radiation. It's here, folks; it's here in the record; it's fact.  
Next slide, please.  
26

27 Here's where this radiation comes from. Majority of the budget comes from  
28 radon, which we just talked about; it also comes from cosmic and terrestrial.  
29 That from the nuclear industry is up there in that other one percent. Next  
30 slide, please. Final thought for, final thought trip here, where does our  
31 energy come from, our common resources? They can all be traced back to  
32 nuclear. Thank you.  
33  
34

35 Pat Serie:

36 Thank you, Mr. Troyer. OK. It looks like we have Gene Rupel will be followed  
37 by Mike Walter, please. Mr. Rupel, I'm sorry, you have an affiliation listed  
38 here? Are you speaking in behalf of ...  
39

40 Gene Rupel:

41 Yes. I'm speaking in behalf of the Jackrabbit Alliance located in  
42 Yakima, Washington. My name is Gene Rupel and I'm going to give you some  
43 reasons why we believe that the FFTF should not be restarted. A new source of  
44 tritium will not be needed because as our arsenal of nuclear weapons is  
45 gradually reduced, the tritium in the retired warheads can be recycled. The  
46 recycled tritium should suffice well into the 21st century if the U.S. and  
47 Russia keep making agreements to reduce their nuclear arsenals. Number two,  
48 the mission of Hanford now is cleanup. Restarting the FFTF would reverse the  
49



process and add more radioactive waste to be cleaned up. Hanford would be back in the bomb-making business. Three, restarting the FFTF will divert badly needed funds from cleanup to bomb-making. Just keeping the reactor on hot standby last year cost 32 million dollars in cleanup funds. If it stays on standby another 32 million dollars of taxpayer money meant for cleanup will go down the drain. Just last month Fluor Daniel Hanford Company, a prime Hanford contractor, announced it will be laying off up to 400 workers by September due to lack of funds. If the FFTF is restarted it will mean that more plutonium, the most deadly substance on earth, will have to be brought to Hanford as fuel for the reactor. It is urgent that Hanford contractors get on with the cleanup without delay. Radioactive chemicals from leaking waste tanks have already reached the groundwater and are perhaps headed for the Columbia River.

The cleanup work is under-funded and behind schedule. The FFTF, being a sodium-cooled breeder reactor, is more dangerous to operate than light water reactors; at least potentially. Both types of reactors can have a core meltdown, but only the breeder reactor can have a nuclear explosion. This is perhaps unlikely, but let's keep in mind the old saying: Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong. Also, the liquid sodium makes a good coolant, but it is a highly volatile substance that must be kept in contact with air and water. For the above reasons, the Jackrabbit Alliance wishes to go on record as opposed to the restart of the FFTF. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Rupel. Mike Walter, please.

Mike Walter:

Yes. My name is Mike Walter and thank you for coming, thank you for letting us come out. I am for the deletion of the FFTF off the TPA, the Tri-Party Agreement. I have a few comments here that I hope to go real quick, with your cooperation, they will. On the FFTF issue, as I said my name is Mike Walter, I am in favor of the FFTF deletion. Professor Eary, who was at the Seattle and I believe also was at the Richland hearing, she had a very interesting chart for those of you who were there and I see several in the audience who was at both those meetings. She was stating how the year, through the year 2025 that the isotope that she uses, that she has plenty of. I don't plan on retiring from the Hanford Site or wherever I'm working if I do get laid off, which DOE laughs at every time they lay off somebody. I don't plan on retiring until at least the year 2030. I may very well live beyond 2048 and how about your kids and grand kids? Will we have enough isotopes for them? And if we do not ...

END OF TAPE

Mike Walter:

... Also, if we do shut down the FFTF, it will severely hurt the infrastructure of the Hanford Site and our suppliers. And a quick comment to

1 the speakers and panel. When we talk about numbers and acronyms, we just need  
2 to remember that most of us here is lay, we do not understand nuclear  
3 terminology. A lot of the acronyms, a lot of the numbers we use, let's uh, we  
4 do not understand the acronyms or the numbers that we use. Let's use the  
5 numbers in terms that we understand.  
6

7 A wonderful comment I heard was when we're talking about an X amount of an  
8 item. Let's use it as in that's what a wheelbarrel can carry or that's what  
9 you can carry such and such an item. Don't just say 10 million metric tons of  
10 this, 10 million metric tons of that. Let's use it where we can understand  
11 it. I also would like to hear the individual e:Mail address of the panel  
12 here. I came in late, I agree, earlier, but I haven't heard any e:Mail  
13 addresses given out and I would like to hear that. And also, what do you guys  
14 know about your own reactor here in Umatilla? And I am also hearing that you  
15 guys don't realize that the Army Depot does still have nerve gas, and they  
16 don't know how to deal with it yet. Thank you.  
17

18 Pat Serie:

19 Thank you. OK. You know ...  
20

21 Unidentified person:

22 Inaudible  
23

24 Pat Serie:

25 Well, what we have done throughout these is accept public comment within  
26 whatever people do want to provide and I think the agencies have talked about  
27 their willingness to analyze what people want to say. Ernie, you normally do  
28 give your e:Mail address. Is it on the table?  
29

30 Ernie Hughes:

31 It's on the handouts. Our e:Mail address, mine personally, my mailing address  
32 are all on the handouts, yes.  
33

34 Pat Serie:

35 Roger, can you do that or ...  
36

37 Roger Stanley:

38 Mine is as well, and it is rost461@ecy.wa.gov.  
39

40 Unidentified person:

41 Can you give that again?  
42

43 Roger Stanley:

44 Yes. rost461@ecy.wa.gov.  
45

46 Pat Serie:

47 Thank you, Roger. OK. We have Robert Burk, then Cindi Laws, and Keith Smith,  
48 please. Mr. Burk. Thank you. Well, then let's pick Molly See, please.

3 Mrs. See. Molly, where did you go? OK. Great. I believe Molly is  
4 Elizabeth's mother.

5 Molly See:

6 And I'm proud of her. Well, I was born and raised in Hood River and I now  
7 live in White Salmon. All my children and grandchildren live nearby. My  
8 connection with the DOE goes back a long time, since the day I was sitting on  
9 the sand at Covert's Beach on the Columbia with my mother and four siblings.  
10 It was paradise then, long ago, when I was a girl. My mother suddenly said:  
11 There's going to be some really bad stuff coming down the river from Hanford.  
12 The sense of shock and outrage I felt then will never go away. My mother was  
13 a wise woman, but busy with five kids, she didn't get involved. Now I say for  
14 every one of us here from this area, there are many others like my mom; they  
15 aren't here, they may be silent. But they exist and some of them are as angry  
16 and frustrated as anyone you'll see here today, they're out there. Some of us  
17 are afraid, too. We're afraid of cancer from Hanford, afraid that the FFTF  
18 might have a meltdown and explode if it's used for weapons production.

19 This old quote is part of the DOE's of the defense program, areas of concern  
20 about FFTF: "No engineer would propose a fast reactor to make tritium from  
21 lithium, modifying a test reactor places the reliable operation of the plant  
22 at risk." We're thinking about death, too, here. We're thinking about  
23 explosions. So this is what I want from the Tri-Parties: honor the Tri-Party  
24 Agreement, keep the milestones, keep the FFTF in the Tri-Party Agreement, try  
25 to find and compensate victims of accidental or deliberate long-term pollution  
26 from Hanford, get out of the nuclear production business by shutting down the  
27 FFTF and all other reactors forever, and by not bringing any more radioactive  
28 stuff to this part of the world. And of course, let's see about cleanup. I'd  
29 like to sit on the beach with my grandson and not have to think about what  
30 might be coming down from Hanford. Thank you.

31 Pat Serie:  
32 OK.

33 Cindi Laws:

34 My name is Cindi Laws and I'm here representing Heart of America, which is  
35 celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, working with fabulous  
36 organizations like Columbia River United, the Government Accountability  
37 Project, Hanford Watch, Hanford Action, and many other groups in the Hanford  
38 Public Interest Network that have fought for cleanup of the Hanford  
39 Reservation. There were nine plutonium production reactors lining the  
40 Columbia River and plutonium processing plants, one of which exploded just  
41 this last May in a chemical spill, or chemical explosion, and over the 43 year  
42 span, 467 million curies of radiation were released from the processing of  
43 more than 30 million pounds of uranium. Is it any wonder that there is so  
44 much cancer, and with all due respect to the cancer victims, and those that  
45 will be coming down with cancer, I have the greatest sympathy. I have the  
46 greatest sympathy for you; we are not opposed to cancer treatment whatsoever,

and we do wish you the best of health and the best of the future. But 46 thousand pounds of uranium fuel rods still sit in the canyon basins close to the Columbia River. There are 28,000 million pounds of dangerous chemicals contained within 44 billion gallons of liquid that were dumped directly into trenches and onto the ground at Hanford. One-third of the 177 tanks out at Hanford leak. They leak into the groundwater, and as you know it's flowing into the Columbia River and downriver.

Now the Department of Energy wants to start up another nuclear reactor, the FFTF, to produce tritium to replace that in the nuclear weapons. We say you've already proved your record to us. We don't like the record and we don't think that you should go on and produce this tritium at the Fast Flux Test Facility whatsoever. So we're opposed to that and we voiced our opposition very vehemently and hundreds and hundreds of people throughout the Northwest have done so. And we've had our intelligence and our opinions mocked by some of those in the Tri-Cities who have insulted our intelligence, and our ability to speak out, to read the facts for what they are, and to actually tell us at the Tri-Cities' hearings that only scientists and engineers should be making this decision about the FFTF. And as taxpayers, I say bullshit.

This country was founded on protest from the time of the Boston Tea Party to this, today's hearing. We will protest what we do not like and if you don't like it you had just better get used to it because we're gonna be doing it a whole lot more. There's been a lot of speculation that the reason the FFTF was added to the list of potential sites was because Patty Murray needed the votes in the Tri-Cities that she could possibly gain from her support for this. And I want to point out that the combined mailing lists of our groups, the Hanford Public Interest Networks, which include the lists above, I mentioned above, are larger than all of the votes in the Tri-Cities combined. It's not going to help you if you lose, which you really need most. Don't delete the TPA milestones; if you do, you will be spending a whole heck of a lot more money. Because if we keep the TPA milestone as it is, we don't have to go forward with an EIS, we don't have to go forward keeping this thing on standby at 32 million dollars a year.

The TPA is a monumental covenant that protects the people of the State of Washington, and I have this little representative that represents the Tri-Party Agreement. It's a little condom, because as you know, the citizens of Washington and Oregon have been screwed for the last 44 years by the Department of Energy and its predecessors. And if you're going to get in bed with the Department of Energy on a future project, you have to make sure that you're protected. I can't do this very well because this one happens to be lubricated. But now you can think about what this goes over and if you think about that as the Department of Energy and this condom as the Tri-Party Agreement, if we modify the Tri-Party Agreement to accept the FFTF--it just doesn't work.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Cindi. We have had four hearings and that is our first condom, I must say. We're now going to go to Keith Smith, followed by Greg deBruler and Bob Talbert, please. Mr. Smith. Thank you.

Keith Smith:

I've heard some pretty interesting comments, but that was the first time I've seen anything like that. I'd just like to, I'd like to point out though that Cindi gets paid for doing that stuff and I'm here on my own hook. I do represent the Machinist's Union in the Tri-City area, but they're not paying me tonight. I brought myself here and paid myself out of my vacation, you might say. I would like to speak in favor of removing the FFTF, the TPA milestones for the simple reason that as the DOE man here pointed out that they're either going to have to be deleted, modified, or extended somehow, and it doesn't matter how you do that but there simply isn't any point. I mean we put the FFTF in there after the TPA was established, so the same mechanism for taking it out should prevail. Now, I don't know if we need more tritium, but I do know that we need medical isotopes, and I don't know of any place--you know, everybody talks about being afraid of that thing. If you've been there and seen it, if you know how that thing was made, you wouldn't be afraid of it. That is a marvelous, marvelous machine.

Now I'm just an old auto mechanic; I'm not a physicist and I don't pretend to be, but I do know machinery. I know it really well. And you can't believe that thing. You can run that reactor, shut it down, and walk into the containment. There isn't any residual radiation, there isn't anything to be afraid of. That's how that thing's made, that's how marvelous it is. It doesn't put anything into the water, it doesn't take anything out of the water. People are scared of putting stuff in the Columbia River; I don't like it either, and I can tell you another thing that I'm out there with the rest of the troops trying to clean that place up, and we are making some progress despite what some of the rhetoric that we have, that had been spoken here tonight. We're moving millions of tons of dirt that's contaminated from just what Cindi remarked about, you know, stuff being dumped onto the soil, the cribs (that we call them) the low-level radioactive material was dumped into. That's being taken out of the soil. I've got people working their holiday, this Monday, to move some of that dirt. We're tearing down old buildings, we're encapsulating reactor buildings, we're preparing other facilities for shutdown as we speak. And we're gonna do that, we're gonna clean that place up, I guarantee it, as long as Congress keeps furnishing us some money at least. That's something you all can do, you can keep encouraging our legislators to keep funding up for that.

I've got kids, I got grandkids, some of them live in the Tri-City area. I had a grandpa, had a grandpa who was 102 years old when he died. He contracted cancer, larynx cancer, when he was 72. You know how they cured it? They didn't kill him, half kill him, with chemotherapy; they didn't cut his voice box out so he could never speak again. They used a radioisotope. He lived

30 years, he didn't die of cancer. I think they call that complete remission. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Would Greg deBruler, and then we will have (you guys are making this tough), Robert Burk and Derek Jones.

Greg deBruler:

I'm gonna speak real quickly because I'm gonna yield my time to an elder I think that you all should listen to. You can read what this says while I'm talking. Notice who signed it. This is serious, the Department of Energy even doubts that they can use FFTF successfully. When you all get done reading that I'll put another one up. There was a comment, really quickly, that said that radiation, you know, that there's virtually not much radiation risk out here and the people haven't been harmed and all this wonderful blah blah. Well, here's some interesting information that you all should take a note on. I'd didn't mean, I didn't ever want to get into this debate, but I want to put the record straight. There are people here that believe that the radiation releases from Hanford never cause a human health impact. These same people are the ones that are telling you the story why they want medical isotopes. Well, here is a quote: Researchers from Los Alamos National Laboratory have uncovered new evidence that suggest radioactive emissions from radon can lead to cancer even if they did not hit, directly hit, cell nucleus. The findings they said should cause environmental and occupational health experts to reconsider some of the models upon which radon standards are based. The team goes on. The research team found alpha particles such as those emitted by indoor radon, radon and nuclear waste from radon's decay products did not have to hit a cell's nucleus to cause changes that could damage the DNA and possibly lead to cancer. Instead DNA damage can be caused when the alpha particles hit the blood or other medium outside the cell, researchers found.

What are they telling you? Low doses of radiation have a human health impact. Hanford dose reconstruction product, they spent, project, they spent 32 million dollars of your taxpayer money in the HEDR document, which is right here. The Columbia River pathway, the cancer rate for colon cancer in the Tri-Cities, the lowest estimate, is 8.7 per hundred thousand for colon cancer. Federal safety standards are one in a million, folks. They are getting a dose of 8.7 per hundred thousand people for colon cancer. You wonder why people get cancer? If you look at the National Cancer Institute studies that came out from the atmospheric bomb test, a 150 million curies were released. NCI came out (National Cancer Institute) and said anywhere from 25 to 75 thousand excess of cancers will occur. The Hanford, gonna go real quick, the HEHS subcommittee under the ATSDR has said they are proposing, they are actually getting funded now by the Department of Energy, to do a medical monitoring study of people exposed to radiation from Hanford. The criteria they used is 10 rad, which is very low (low dose of radiation), they found their experts in, pardon me, CDC and ATSD are found that doses down to as low as 2 rad;

002389

3 which is very low, causes a doubling of thyroid nodules. These are the  
4 experts that are speaking. So when they talk about cancer, think of one  
5 thing. There are all sorts of alternative methods other than radioisotopes.

6 I'm off that soap box. One more quote: "We are not marketing FFTF on the  
7 basis of radioactive isotopes for their medical community. We have been quite  
8 clear that our interest in restarting the FFTF is principally for the  
9 production of tritium for our nuclear weapons." Terry Lash, U.S. Department  
10 of Energy. End of conversation. My quote for the public record is to get  
11 back on to the TPA and then I'm yield to Chief Johnny Jackson, you can come  
12 up, Johnny. Ecology should state very clearly to U.S. DOE that the mission of  
13 Hanford is cleanup and they are not interested in deleting FFTF from the TPA.  
14 Ecology should state that every day the U.S. DOE fails to meet the current  
15 milestones, Ecology will hold them accountable until the final decision is  
16 made by Secretary O'Leary. We will enforce the Tri-Party Agreement and we  
17 will take them to court if they are in violation of it.

18 Pat Serie:  
19 Chief Jackson.

20  
21 Johnny Jackson:

22 Good evening. I'm here to represent my people. I'm one of the four chiefs of  
23 the Columbia River Tribes and Bands. I was born and raised here on the  
24 Columbia River and I'm a fisherman. And I'm against what we're here for, to  
25 make a decision on. I'm also a member of the Environmental Network Conference  
26 Council, which is national. I travel all over the country to different  
27 places, different reservations. I even go to Hawaii, to Alaska, down, clear  
28 down to the southeast as well as northeast, to conferences with people who  
29 (and communities) who are having problems with this very problem that we're  
30 talking about today. You know, my people, I live with this every day and  
31 think about what is happening to our atmosphere, our river here. We hear  
32 people say good things about nuclear age and nuclear power, and they want  
33 more, to build more, to manufacture more. They want to, these people want to  
34 go and start up a reactor to create more tritium. But you know, when that  
35 tritium is being used and done with and everything that they use to make it  
36 with, where did they, where do they, where did they put it? Or where are they  
37 going to take it?

38  
39 You know my tribes throughout this country have all been approached and asked  
40 and offered big money to have this waste put on their reservations. And uh,  
41 we fought this. For many years now my cousin, Wilbur Slockish, Jr., and  
42 myself have traveled to many parts of this country helping communities and  
43 tribes fight against the Department of Energy, to keep them from putting their  
44 waste on their reservations, and offering them money. We fought the Yakama  
45 Nation and hassled with them because they were about ready to accept it; in  
46 fact they had a check there. The first payment lie on the Chairman's desk  
47 from the Department of Energy to have an MRS plant on their reservation. And  
we went to Las Vegas where they were making, having the final meeting on it,

002410

and we got in there and spoke against it and told them that we would come home and bring it before the people and ask the people if the people gave the tribal government the right to go and negotiate on their part to have this dangerous plant on their reservation. So they did not cash that check; they sent it back to the Department of Energy because they wanted their own jobs.

You know, they say that we need this tritium and we need these weapons, but they're not telling you how many of these weapons we've already got stockpiled in this country. And that when these, these weapons, if they ever have to dispose of them, where are they gonna put them? In what state in this whole union, this United States, wants it stored in their back yard? You know, it's very difficult to think when I'm speaking to you, when I travel to many places and met with people and communities, and I've had people come to these uh, to our national council, for our help and for our guidance, and watched them get up and speak before us. Some of them can't hardly walk or talk. That has been affected by this very issue that we're talking about now, cancers in their bodies, afflicted by radiation. You take the Marshall Islands, we've had them people, I wish I could have them people here speak to you. I wish I could have them people here for you to see them, young people, and see what they look like. Because the United States had tests near their islands and on their islands and they give it back to them people to live on.

Them people live with that today and none of them live, none of the will live, not half as long as lot of you will. They don't have that chance, they don't have that right. But your hear these men talk about, saying that their grandfathers live over a 100 years old and what not. Sure, some of my people did in the old days. What I'm here about today is for my own people and as well as for your children because I know what's happening. I fought against the Department of Energy for the past 20 years now or more. Since I've caught my first bad fish right here in this river, right down about a mile down from here. And they destroyed them fish because they did not want to test them. My own government, the Yakama Nation, did not want to say that those fish were taken out and taken away and destroyed because that didn't want them to go to the laboratory. But I had pictures of them. I've showed these pictures and, you all of you people, you have children. A lot of you people like to fish in this river, but you don't know what that river's becoming today. You know you hear them up there, they talk about downwinders, we want to deal with and help the downwinders. But they're not talking about the people that live downriver. They are not talking about what's behind each dam that we ask many times to be tested. What's down in the bottom of that water behind that dam? What's the sediment like? What's the water like?

We ask this because we know that in the summertime, children can't go and stay away from the river. They gotta go swimming, they gotta play in it. We gotta eat the fish, we're fishermen. We even take the fish and sell it and it goes all over. But sometimes some of us think about it and we think about Hanford and we wonder just what they're doing because we're selling that fish, we're catching it and selling it for a living. And we're using it for our own



consumption, we're feeding it to our children, yet we have a fear of what's in that water. Over two years ago, and last year, I found out by reading the paper that, that the Yakama Nation put out, that they had a part in having their people going down, that they were going to be employed by the Hanford Reservation, to help them raise fish in the cooling ponds of a shut down reactor. And that they were already doing it, and that they, they bragged about how much they released, that they were raising trout in there, and sturgeon. I went to the Yakama Nation immediately and asked about it and I objected to it, and I could not get no answers from them because they said it was supposed to be kept quiet.

But you know some of these, a lot of these things happen right here without you people knowing it, and you don't know what's happening to the future of your children. I see it all the time because I'm traveling to many places to these meetings and seen it happen to other communities. To New Mexico, I heard a man talk about Los Alamos. I was there when the people went in there and stormed it and told them they wanted them to stop. Enough was enough. I've been down there when they blocked highways and raised their voices to say that we do not want this any more; we've had enough because they watched their children and their people die.

I speak out because I watched my mother die and I watched my grandma die, my aunt die, and I watched my cousin I grew up with and went to school with, I watched him. When his kids took him over here three years ago and got him ready to bury and I looked at him, he didn't have no hair on his head, no eyelashes or eyebrows. That's what happened with, from the cancer that he had. Many of my people are dying the same way. You know it took quite a bit for my cousin, Marcel, to travel to the Yakama Nation and talk to them people so that they could get away from Hanford. Because we kept on reminding them that Hanford Reservation was right over the hill from where they lived, and what was going up there, and what was happening there, what was buried there, and what was being exposed to them. A lot of them don't know what goes into the air. A lot of them's not educated to what, what plutonium, tritium, radiation is. They don't do that over there. When we talk about it, we're troublemakers, but we have to let the people know because we've watched people die around us and we know what it does to them.

When I went and traveled to see these other people back east, on what was happening to a lot of them, and I went and I heard the people from the Aleutian Islands and all those people that came to our conferences and testify and watch them cry. I even watched women from Savannah River testify in Washington when I was there. I watched them cry because the man, the head man of the Department of Energy, would not look at them and would not listen to them. He started reading the paper while they were trying to testify and tell them what their problems were. And they wouldn't hear, he wouldn't listen to them. And it hurt to see these women cry.

So you people think about this, think about this river, think about this atmosphere, and think about your children. I'm gonna be traveling on the 25th and I'm gonna be going to another conference and this is what I'm gonna be hearing and this is what I'm gonna be talking about there and listening to. I don't like what's happening up at Hanford. I did not like hearing that they were raising fish in those cooling ponds of the retired reactors and I don't want toe:

Thank you, sir. OK. Thank you. We now have Robert Burk. Thank you.

Robert Burk:

That's a really tough act to follow. Let's give the Chief another hand. Thank you for your work, sir. My name is Robert Burk. I'm a professional mechanical engineer, I live in Kennewick, Washington. The Fast Flux Test Facility, in its ten years of operation amassed safety and performance records that have not been surpassed in the DOE complex. This performance was recognized nationally. In 1983, the National Society of Professional Engineers awarded an Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award to the facility. In 1987, after completing the year with 100 percent operational efficiency factor, the American Nuclear Society gave the facility the ANS Award for Meritorious Performance in reactor operations. In 1988, the reactor ran for 126 consecutive days at full power and achieved 78 percent capacity factor while performing numerous experiments for international customers. In 1992, the National Endowment for the Arts gave the facility the Presidential Design Award recognizing the inherent safety features, superb design, and flawless performance of the facility.

It would have been a waste of the taxpayers money to dismantle this valuable resource if it could be used for some other purpose. Placing the Fast Flux Test Facility in standby was the right thing to do and the Secretary of Energy acted responsibly to preserve that resource when a potential use was identified. I support removal of the irrelevant milestones from the Tri-Party Agreement and preserving the integrity and intended purpose of that agreement, that of providing the cleanup schedule and road map for the Hanford Site in instances where compliance with RCRA and surplus schedules cannot be possible. Clearly, should the FFTF be retained to produce tritium and medical isotopes, compliance with state and federal law is assumed and renegotiation of closure issues that cannot meet legally mandated schedules would be appropriate.

Now lastly, you guys got a kick out of the statistics earlier. We need maybe to lighten the crowd up a little bit. I'd like to talk, in closing with the remaining 45 seconds I have, about risk, acceptance of risk, perceived risk, and real risk. I had a couple other things in here that seemed appropriate to me, but I'm glad I took them out. One of them is drinking a can of beer a day gives you a one in, I believe the number is 333,000, one person in 333,000 who drink a can of beer a day will die of cirrhosis of the liver. Those are statistics. We know you can play with statistics, right? But I think we recognize, for example, home accidents. There are fatalities that result from home accidents. Yet we accept we have to live in a home so you have to accept

3 that risk. Drinking chlorinated water is very strange, particularly in light  
4 of the fact that just recently we're hearing in the news that women who drink  
5 five glasses of tap water a day have a higher rate of miscarriages. That's  
6 ...

6 Pat Serie:

7 Mr. Burk, we need to wind up, please.

9 Robert Burk:

10 The last thing I guess from my perspective. If you take a look at ... these  
11 are real. The last row is the real numbers measured from the stacks of the  
12 FFTF, give you a one in one million chance of fatality, and that's if all one  
13 million of those people were standing at the site boundary 24 hours a day,  
14 365 days a year.

16 Pat Serie:

17 Thank you, Mr. Burk. You know, one of the other prerogatives of the  
18 facilitator is to take young citizens earlier, and Kory Haring? Harding. Who  
19 is a citizen. Kory, do you want to go to the, where would you like to go?  
20 Somebody help Kory?

22 Kory Haring:

23 Hi. Um, why do we need to make more bombs?

24 Greg deBruler:

25 I don't think you want me to answer it because I'd probably give you a logical  
27 answer. What they want to do is, they want to make tritium, but I'll let this  
28 man from the Department of Energy answer your question why we need to have  
29 bombs.

31 Pat Serie:

32 You're a brave young man, Kory.

34 Ernie Hughes:

35 They're not gonna make new bombs. They're making tritium because the tritium  
36 decays and they're making tritium to keep the number of bombs they have, which  
37 they negotiate in a, in a policy with the Russians.

39 Pat Serie:

40 Anything else, Kory? Thank you, thank you very much. OK. I have  
41 Derek Jones. Derek Jones.

43 Derek Jones:

44 I couldn't have had a better lead in. Everybody realizes here that I'm a  
45 hawk. OK. This is the current status of nuclear warheads between the United  
46 States and Canada from the National Research Defense, National Resource  
47 Defense Council, I believe that's an anti-nuclear organization. Um, at the  
present time the United States has downsized from some 12,000 warheads to

002411

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1 8,800. The Russians have come down from 15,000 to 7,300 warheads. France  
3 retains 480 warheads, China 425, Great Britain 200 to 300. The primary  
4 problem with nuclear weapons is that they have to be delivered by some  
5 delivery vehicle. So contrary to what the anti-nuclear people have said, we  
6 will never go down to zero warheads. That plateau occurs somewhere around  
7 2,000 warheads in order to maintain some deterrent effect, and that's a big  
8 word for the kids in the audience. Deterrence means that you have a  
9 sufficient strength to destroy an enemy if they should attack you. OK. It  
10 was easy when we were in the cold war with the Russians; they'd increase, we'd  
11 increase. OK. And that was what the need was based on. Now days we're going  
12 to be downsizing the size of the weapons from multiple warhead weapons to  
13 single warhead weapons. But we still have to have four to five submarines on  
14 each coast; we still have to have one or two active squadrons of bombers; we  
15 have to have several ships like the one ladies ship, her daughter's deployed  
16 in Iran and Iraq, because we have a new class of dangerous people and that's  
17 called terrorists countries. Iran and Iraq have both experimented with (on  
18 their own people) chemical and biological weapons. No, no, no, on their own  
19 people now ...

20 Pat Serie:  
21 Let him finish, please.

22  
23 Derek Jones:  
24 FFTF has been unfairly compared with the outer areas that are along the river  
25 by the anti-nuclear zone literature. The 400 Area is several miles from the  
26 river. It does not discharge water into the Columbia River, as has been  
27 pointed out. If it was used to produce tritium, I will show you the three  
28 isotopes of hydrogen. There's the primary isotope of hydrogen, which has one  
29 proton with one electron orbiting it. In nature, due to cosmic reactions in  
30 the upper atmosphere deuterium is made. OK. Now that's by a neutron  
31 absorption reaction where the neutron is pulled into the nucleus. Tritium  
32 cannot be produced that way. It has to be produced from lithium metal, but  
33 when it is complete it contains two neutrons and a proton. And that's why  
34 it's called three (tritium) because it has three elements in the isotope.  
35 When tritium decays, to help explain to those people that ask those questions  
36 of me ...

37  
38 Pat Serie:  
39 He's representing an organization? Did you make that clear, Mr. Jones?

40  
41 Derek Jones:  
42 Oh, I'm sorry. I failed to state that I'm with an educational organization  
43 called Friends of FFTF.

44  
45 Pat Serie:  
46 And he has 48 seconds left. Please let him finish.  
47

002413

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Derek Jones:

Tritium decays by a very low energy decay called beta decay from tritium to two-three helium in 12.5, a half-life of 12.5 years. That's why it has to be depleted in warheads. Or that's why it is being depleted in the warheads, because of natural decay. The Department of Defense has indicated that our weapons would not in fact work without tritium because we would have--yes, I will finish--we would have to increase the size of the weapons beyond the capability of our current delivery systems and we would have to conduct new experiments in the desert and contaminate more people to keep ourselves ahead of the terrorists.

Pat Serie:

OK. That's fine. Excuse me. Five minutes for each organization, please. Thank you, Mr. Jones. OK. One announcement. People who are leaving, please pick up a comment form or sign some of the things at the back if you are not able to stay. We're going to go to Brenda Herman, then Bob Talbert, then Gai Oglesbee, please. Ms. Herman.

Greg deBruler:

I don't think there's any comment forms. So the comments forms are at that door and at that door. So if you haven't had a chance to comment and you're leaving, please fill them out.

Pat Serie:

Please either leave them or send them in by February 20th. Brenda Herman, There she is.

Brenda Herman:

In 1948, my parents moved to the Gorge. This was their promise land. As a native and a life-long resident of the Gorge, I spent my childhood playing in and eating the bounty of the mighty Columbia River. Innocently and unknowingly, I was being poisoned by the very government that I was being taught to love, honor, and respect. In my professional life I work with businesses and their struggle to remain open. Just a few years ago ... Washington had over 86 percent of their population with low to very low income levels, as reported by the Washington State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development. Only two cities in the State of Washington had a higher rate of low-income families. This community has become increasingly dependent on the tourism industry to survive as has all of Klickitat County. And a study of Washington state travel impacts and visitor volume, Dean Runyon Associates found that in 1995 nearly 29 million dollars was spent in Klickitat County alone. This generated 5 million dollars in payroll for 529 jobs. Klickitat County's workforce is estimated at 8,280. This is a significant impact for that county. It is imperative that the FFTF not be exempted from the Tri-Party Agreement. The implications of a Hanford restart for our small communities would be devastating. It can only mean more loss of business, more poverty, and the destruction of the very essence of the Columbia River Gorge. Our economic base has the potential of being crippled or totally

destroyed. Would you cross the country to play on a polluted and deadly river?

In my personal life, I've watched my son suffer from a very rare and extremely painful immune system disorder. I'm sure it's hard for you folks to understand my feelings of helplessness as his medical bills have climbed in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. And as each time his illness flares, not knowing if he will live or die, chances are I'll never be able to prove my suspicions, but deep in my heart, I know his illness as well as the thyroid illness that has plagued my mother, my sister, and myself, come directly from our exposure to Hanford waste. I worry about my friends and my loved ones as their sport or their work draws them to these contaminated waters. I worry about whether or not we will ever be able to restore the health of this once mighty waterway. I worry about whether those making the decisions are aware that they may be signing the death warrants of untold numbers. And I wonder why our tax dollars are being spent to help salmon recovery and to poison them at the same time. But most of all I will ...

END OF TAPE

Pat Serie:

OK. Bob Talbert. Excuse me? OK. Good. You are representing?

Bob Talbert:

Um, yes. Society for In Search of Truths. I'm here tonight to ask you to not listen to the "pontifical" dictums that may come from my mouth or someone else's mouth or the jingoism that you might see on someone's pamphlet or whatever. What I want you to do is basically do your own independent research, be an independent thinker, make your own conclusions. If the FFTF restarts, four things are gonna happen. Tritium's going to be produced, nuclear waste is going to be produced, plutonium is going to be burned, medical radioisotopes are going to be produced. You've heard medical radioisotopes, you'll probably hear that again. Let's talk about tritium. If Saddam had all our tritium, what could he do with it? Uh, well, paint watch dials, mix it with maybe some Dutch Boy latex, handsome-up the palaces, they'd look great at night, let me tell ya. Could he make a bomb? The answer is no. There tends to be this pervasive belief that what you do is you take a bunch of tritium, you take a bunch of deuterium, you squeeze it: Boom. That ain't the way it works, the way you make a hydrogen bomb is you take a whole bunch of Pu-239 and a little bit of tritium, and a little bit of deuterium. It's the synergy, the tritium is effectively a turbo charger for the neutrons that makes the plutonium go. It's the way they work. That's truth. Don't believe me? Do your own research. OK. What's the ratio? How much tritium compared to plutonium? Fifty times as much? Fifty times as much plutonium as tritium? A hundred times as much? Way too low. Five hundred times as much? We're starting to get into the ballpark. Tritium is gonna be produced somewhere. I am anti-war, I am anti-military, I am anti-weapons of mass destruction and have been for over 30 years. Yeah, the way it goes.

002415

1 If you are my age and you are an activist, you either participated in or you  
2 have knowledge of the two great social protests of the 20th century: civil  
3 rights, the Vietnam War. One worked, one worked marvelously. One failed  
4 abysmally. The one that failed abysmally was the one that was against the  
5 Department of Defense. Department of Defense does what the hell they want.  
6 The Department of Defense is gonna make the tritium. Will a social protest  
7 shut down FFTF? Yeah, maybe. Will a social protest stop the DOD from making  
8 the tritium? Well, think back. A million people around the pond in D.C.,  
9 complete with Vietnam vets spewing Lincoln's feet with purple hearts and  
10 bronze stars didn't mean a hill of beans. That's the way it went. Let's talk  
11 about Pu burn. If Saddam had all of our plutonium, could he make a weapon?  
12 Well, takes about, something about the size of a brick to make a weapon. He  
13 could make well over a thousand. Could he do something with them? Could he  
14 deliver them? Well, they're a little more complex to make than a uranium  
15 weapon, but, yeah. Does he have scientists well enough to that? Sure. Do  
16 terrorist organizations have the intellect to be able to make a high-yield  
17 device? Probably not. Can they make a device that will make a hell of mess?  
18 You bet. Can they deliver it in a Ryder truck? Yeah, they can.

19  
20 Proliferation is a big issue. Um, you heard from the fellow down there in the  
21 red tie, more Pu-239? Once it gets done being burned than when you started  
22 with? If you're a physicist, you got C's in grad school, I'll tell you that.  
23 Also, um, he said that Los Alamos has said that the reactor grade is better  
24 for weapons than weapon-grade. Don't you think they would have made it that  
25 way to start with? These are not stupid guys. Of course reactor grade is  
26 nowhere near as good as the six percent Pu-240 stuff. What I want to do is  
27 protect my children's children's children against terrorists and against a  
28 thermonuclear weapon, and that scares the hell out of me. Do I think it's  
29 gonna be delivered if it's used against mankind by a Trident missile? Aaah,  
30 probably not. Do I think it's going to be delivered by like a B-1 bomber or a  
31 Russian bomber or something like that? I don't think so. I think it's going  
32 to come in a Ryder truck. That's my own assessment, that's my personal  
33 belief. Um, another word on jingoism, you know, don't believe something that  
34 I've said. Don't believe something that anybody else has said. Do your own  
35 research. Be independent. Think, use your brain.

36  
37 Two recent pieces of jingoism. If they don't fit, you must acquit. And one  
38 of my own personal favorites: It's just a photographic ruse, he owns no Bruno  
39 Mali [sp.] shoes. Twelve people believed that.

40  
41 Pat Serie:

42 Mr. Talbert, excuse me. Do you have a comment on the TPA milestone? Do you  
43 have a comment on the TPA milestones? Quickly please, quickly.

44  
45 Bob Talbert:

46 Remove FFTF from the TPA milestones. However, do your own research. Use your  
47 own brain that God gave you.

002415

Pat Serie:

Thank you very much. OK. We have Gai Oglesbee, then W. P. Mead, and then Steve Curley.

Unidentified person:

Inaudible

Pat Serie:

... you're after Ms. Oglesbee. Thank you. Ms. Oglesbee, there you are.

Gai Oglesbee:

Hi. Most of you from Hood River don't recognize me, but I lived here until I was seven years old and all up and down the Columbia River for the rest of it until I moved to Hanford and I am a Tri-Citian for 39 years. What I want to say first is FFTF should not be removed from the Tri-Party Agreement. You were instructed to clean up Hanford, period. You don't make changes when there's an arrangement. A commitment is a commitment. There's five members of my family that are feeling the effects of Hanford because I have lived there so long. President Clinton did not contact me directly until I talked about damaged children. And bombs kill children. What causes cancer? What causes many other related radiation exposure elements and deaths? These and many other considerations are important to note during this hearing. Ionizing radiation and nuclear process chemicals represents tons of legacy repositories, located in our Hanford back yard. Compiled with all other synergistic effects, people must find a way to cope with the out-of-control Hanford pollution monster by the year 2006, depending on which mile is referenced. For instance, a mutated newborn baby girl died four months after her birth. Kelly was born with three very rare brain tumors so large that her head grew to the size of an adult's. The judge ruled in favor of her father, against the United States Department of Energy, who was chronically exposed to radiation. He could, the judge could not imagine why the unfeeling caretakers directed the punishment. The U.S. DOE were negligent and had not provided a safe work environment for the baby's father. Instead the government caretakers fired him with intent to teach him and others who blew the whistle on their potential health and safety concerns.

The U.S. DOE was ordered to reinstate the father February 10, 1998. I cringe when I think about his future well being; probably no more children. On April 11, 1996, for five days I was temporarily fired by U.S. DOE caretakers for blowing the whistle on the cause of my repeated injuries for 11 years. Management admitted under oath that I was exposed to radiation and nonradiation toxins but did not find the source of it. A government champion, Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary, came to my rescue on April 17, 1996, erased the firing and restored lost liberties. She altered her subordinates' abusive conduct, enforced these initiatives, rather than their government dreams. In 1996, I volunteered to work with a team of international experts to produce a six-inch stack of medical evidence, which is before a federal judge. The team was led by a respected Ph.D.; this public record evidence

002416



1 will save lives and prompt many American questions. Our government leaders  
2 may be held accountable as early as next year if questions raised are not  
3 answered in a responsible manner.

4  
5 The Tri-Cities has been my home for 39 years like I said, synergistic effects  
6 are very harmful for me; we don't need any more Hanford garbage to clean up.  
7 Why is Hanford's deteriorating condition out of control? Thousand of  
8 historical records, media items, ploy and public trip testimony, characterize  
9 the government caretakers' poor performance, mismanagement, negligence, waste,  
10 fraud, and abuse. For instance, USD has just admitted radiation has reached  
11 the groundwater after eon years of denials. The saturation point is so ...  
12

13 Pat Serie:  
14 You need to finish, please.  
15

16 Gai Oglesbee:  
17 Pardon me? For eons after that. Um, I wanted to read something else here. A  
18 friend recently allowed a local physician to experiment on his 94 year old  
19 mother who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer disease. My friend admits he  
20 does not know very much about the medical isotope application. The one time  
21 \$1,000 radiation therapy was supposed to provide medical information. His  
22 mother did not have a choice, nor could this experiment be explained to her.  
23 My friend admits hindsight leads him to believe this idea was a waste of money  
24 and worrisome. No real evidence exists to this day that the physician's  
experiment was of any diagnostic or treatment value.

27 Pat Serie:  
28 Ms. Oglesbee, I'm sorry. Your time is considerably over. I need to ask you  
29 to stop.  
30

31 Gai Oglesbee:  
32 OK.  
33

34 Pat Serie:  
35 OK. Thank you. Our next speaker will be W. P. Mead, followed by  
36 Steve Curley, and then Georgia Talbert, please.  
37

38 Steve Curley:  
39 I'll take your turn here, thank you.  
40

41 Pat Serie:  
42 I'm sorry. What is your name, please?  
43

44 Steve Curley:  
45 My name is Steve Curley. I live here in the mid-Columbia area. I'm curious,  
46 did you folks not get your meeting up in Hanford, up in the Tri-Cities area?  
47 I find it despicable that you come down here and stack the deck against us  
48 because you folks realize how dead-set against starting up this FFTF we are

3 down here. You could see by the turnout here how dead-set against this whole  
4 thing we are. And I'll tell you what, I'm not getting paid to be here, and I  
5 know that 99 percent of the people that showed up tonight are not getting paid  
6 to be here. And I do realize that a lot of you folks work for Hanford (sorry  
7 about that). I'm wound up like a cheap watch, I'm sorry. You know what  
8 happens, you talk about medical isotopes, you talk about medical isotopes, and  
9 you lift up the rug and you just sweep it underneath. Medical isotopes--all  
10 fluff. And then you got the nuclear bomb potential. You don't talk about  
11 cancer. You want to talk about cancer? Talk to people in Chernobyl about  
12 cancer. How about that part, huh?

13 This is not fluff, we are here to be heard. You folks, and I respect you  
14 guys, I appreciate you being here, but we're here to be heard. We're not for  
15 this restart of the Fast Flux Test Facility. I live here in the mid-Columbia,  
16 I already said that. Tri-Party Agreement said the mission of Hanford is  
17 cleanup. The Fast Flux Test Facility should stay in the Tri-Party Agreement.  
18 The Admiral said, the mission of Hanford is cleanup. Without any changes,  
19 live up to the Tri-Party Agreement without any changes. The federal  
20 government needs to live up to what, live up to their promise. What's the  
21 point of the Tri-Party Agreement? I want my tax dollars to go towards  
22 cleanup, not restarting the FFTF. Thank you.

23 Pat Serie:

24 OK. Now, in the red shirt, is going to take Mr. Mead's spot, and could we  
25 have your name, please? Deborah Seyler, thank you. Following Deborah, we  
26 will have Georgia Talbert, Marybeth Condor, Cordova? Sorry. Condon.

27 Deborah Seyler:

28 I want to speak with you directly and not necessarily make a show at a  
29 microphone that was directed so that you wouldn't have to look at people. My  
30 name is Deborah Seyler and I live here along the river. I would like to voice  
31 my strong opinion about the proposed restart at Hanford and any other  
32 undisclosed proposals that you haven't told us yet. Hanford has a abysmal  
33 track record of intentional and unintentional releases of radioactive  
34 materials, explosion, and toxic wastes. We have been your guinea pigs long  
35 enough. Many people worked agonizing hours for the long awaited Tri-Party  
36 Agreement. Any exemption from this agreement is unconscionable and will not  
37 be tolerated. You are not yet finished with cleanup from the past and present  
38 mistakes. No money should have been or shall be diverted from cleanup funds  
39 to keep any part of Hanford on a hot standby. This is a violation of public  
40 trust. We have suffered enough from broken promises, smokescreens, and  
41 coverups. I am surrounded by local people who attribute immune system  
42 diseases, cancer, and glandular disorders rampant in their families directly  
43 to Hanford.  
44

45 Visiting and resident windsurfers report strange diseases, skin and mucosal  
46 infections and vomiting after being in the river and many of them no longer  
47 will go near the river or eat anything from that river. While 32 million

002418

dollars a year has been diverted for hot standby, the federal government failed to find 13 million dollars proposed for the studies of these illnesses and deaths along the Columbia River. I have listened to the stories from Chernobyl survivors, which our two governments did not share with us. They include the following risks, which I do not feel we should assume through breaking the TPA agreement. Children banging their heads against the wall with vacant stares unless they are stopped. Mysterious diseases, immune system disorders, sterility, cancers, abnormal plants and wildlife, suicide, gastrointestinal diseases, untreatable skin sores, vomiting, diarrhea, infant deaths, and stillborn deaths. Hanford has done enough damage. It did enough damage when the first bomb was dropped. It continues to do damage all up and down the Columbia. Its supporters and our government won't even fund research to find out how much damage was done. No more broken agreements. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you. OK. Will Georgia Talbert, followed by Marybeth Condon, and Bart Ververlot.

Georgia Talbert:

Yes, I'm Georgia Talbert and I am from the Tri-Cities. I'm an educator there. I'm sorry that the Hood River people didn't know that in Seattle and Portland, or that there's people that came from the Tri-Cities or that we thought it was an open Washington, Oregon, not a city specific. Anyway, I'm alive because of a radioisotope. Because a year ago, a little over a year ago, I had a botched surgery and an arrogant surgeon that didn't believe anything was wrong with me, but that I was just not recouping fast. Luckily I had a husband that knew about radioisotopes and he insisted that I have a technetium scan. They didn't want to do it. The doctor said: Ah that's just, we don't need to do that. Well they finally did, and the next thing you know, I was rushed to Virginia Mason and was saved by a well-renown surgeon. And yes, I needed that radioisotope to prove that there was something wrong with me and it saved my life.

Now, I'm really glad that ... that radioisotope was developed in the '60s and the '70s. Because it was allowed to be developed then, there was other causes, and I have a lot of empathy for people with causes. I walked with King in D.C. and I was in many anti-war protests. But one thing that I always felt was that I had total facts. The teacher in me was really bothered that people get on a cause without, not all the information. Now I agree with you that nobody in Tri-Cities wants the Hanford ... please let me finish ... I wouldn't allow anybody in my classroom to interrupt anybody else ... That's OK. I'm sorry, I just ...

Pat Serie:

Let's respect the speakers, please.

002399

1 Georgia Talbert:

2 Thank you. I just totally lost it. I'm sorry. Um, oh, nobody wants Hanford  
3 cleaned up more than the people that live at Hanford. Nobody wants it more  
4 for our children than people that work with children, but the funny thing  
5 about FFTF is that it's a different entity. And it's a shame that TPA didn't  
6 realize that when they made that agreement. But it does not put things in the  
7 water and it does not do some of the things that you have dealt with since the  
8 '40s and the '50s, and yes, we can't trust government. But for once there's  
9 going to be something good happening and I guess what I want to ask you is,  
10 let's look at the science, let's look at the facts--not all the emotions, not  
11 all rhetoric, not all the other things. But what FFTF will do, and it will  
12 save lives. And I held both parents hands as they died of cancer, seven years  
13 apart, and they're from the east coast and had nothing to do with anything  
14 nuclear. But I'll tell you, I know how high-risk I am and I want to have  
15 radioisotopes available for me and the generations to come. Thank you.  
16

17 Pat Serie:

18 Thank you, Ms. Talbert. OK. Marybeth Condon, Bart Ververlot, and  
19 Deidre Duffy, please.  
20

21 Unidentified person:

22 ... You're not really local.  
23

24 Judy Merrill:

25 But I'm going to be. My name is Judy Merrill and I live in Goldendale. 002419  
26 That's in Washington. I'm a nurse. I've been a nurse for 23 years and I've  
27 worked with all types of people all ages. I'm not a technical person for  
28 those that know me. I don't know statistics, I don't do a lot of research.  
29 But I have worked with a lot of people of all ages and all ethnic groups with  
30 environmental illnesses from chemicals, radiation, and immune systems. I have  
31 several friends that the medical society would not listen to because of their  
32 different neurological symptoms. I ask you all three questions, or two  
33 questions. Why do we have so much cancer? What is wrong with our society?  
34 The answer is not more technology, nuclear isotopes. We've become way too  
35 technical. We need to heal. I about, just about died, when I saw this crazy  
36 brochure. Opportunities for improved human health: nuclear medicine. Every  
37 hour a child is diagnosed cancer, every hour 60 Americans die from cancer,  
38 every 20 seconds an American suffers a heart attack. Nearly 40 million people  
39 endure painful crippling arthritis. Cancer, all of you, look at me, good eye  
40 contact. Cancer and coronary heart disease claim a million Americans a year.  
41 Listen, educate ourselves. It's about prevention. And you know, I have just  
42 recently worked with a group of teenagers and their comment regarding this is:  
43 Please quit pollution of the mind. Thank you.  
44

45 Pat Serie:

46 Thank you. OK. Bart Ververlot, and then Deidre Duffy. Could you state your  
47 name, sir? I'm sure I haven't done it right.

002420

Bart Ververlot:

Oops. My name is Bart Ververlot. I resided about 11 years in Bingen, Washington and now I live in Moser, Oregon. I have a very difficult time trusting the cure coming from the same people who brought us the cause. I'm appalled by the speed with which the government can start up a project when they're so slow about starting the cleanup of all the other messes made. And because I'm a voter, and because I'm an American citizen, and because I'm a taxpayer, I'm not opposed to anyone else's voices; they're all allowed to have theirs. But mine is that I'm opposed to removing the FFTF, the FFTF, whatever it is, from the Tri-Party Agreement. Stand up to your promises once. Try it.

Pat Serie:

Thank you very much. Deidre Duffy, please.

Deidre Duffy:

Hi. I'm Deidre Duffy from Bingen, Washington, across here. And I know we're all getting antsy and we're getting antsy for a lot of reasons. Let's just get on with the show; let's maintain the Tri-Party Agreement, and clean up Hanford. That's it. Thank you very much.

Pat Serie:

OK. All right. You guys are moving so fast here. Jim Baldwin, then Aloni LonPenchon, Diane, maybe. And then Tim Young. Mr. Baldwin.

Jim Baldwin:

My name is Jim Baldwin and I represent the citizens who appreciate creative fabrication and, actually I'm from Portland. I'm not from here but I stayed up so late in Portland and I didn't get to testify that I came here. And, uh, OK, the creative fabrication, yes the sun is a nuclear reactor, and guess what? The sun will give you cancer if you're not careful with it. Um, this is my viewgraph and, I mean this, this is the waste plumes I guess at Hanford, and I mean we created a monster that we can't control, and it's not just me that's saying that. Um, when, when at the hearing at Portland a Mr. Stanley I think from the Washington Ecology? Somebody asked him directly if he thought that Hanford would ever be cleaned up or ever be made safe, and he said: I doubt it. So it's not just me that's saying that this monster is out of control. He's saying it, too. And, uh, Dr. Frankenstein, when the monster got out of the lab, he went after it and tried to stop it. But these guys, when the monster gets out of the lab, they just say: Oh well, that one got away, let's make another one.

In every culture, in every religion, every culture in the world, and everybody of literature, there are these cautionary tales of what you're supposed to do and what you're not supposed to do. And how do you know when you're on that territory? Well, we know, we already know that we created a monster that we can't control. And, ya know, Pandora opened the box and out came disease and death and misery, and so what did she say? Oh, let's see what's behind door

number two. Well, I'll tell ya, you don't have to look cause I'll tell you what's behind door number two. It's more of same, it's the same thing. And all this stuff about well, yeah, this time the reactor's safe, but this time we're not going to lie to ya about dumping stuff in the river and releasing things into the air like we've been lying for the last 30, 40, 50 years. Well, yes you are. We know, we know that engineering mishaps take place and we know that when they do take place, there's lies and coverups and it's not, I'm not pointing at them specifically, because it happens all over in business, in government. You waste some office supplies at work, you hide it. Everybody does that. It will happen.

Pat Serie:

Mr. Baldwin, you need to finish, please.

Jim Baldwin:

OK. The last thing I have to say is for, you know, on this side of the river all the politicians virtually unanimous in the Oregon legislature, everyone is against this. You cross the river and there's all this confusion. And we all know why that is, everybody here knows why that is. Well, there's a third monster. You know, there's this monster, the plume, the waste plume, there's the FFTF, and the third monster is once you let this get started, once you let something get started that is not related to cleanup, if you think it's hard to resist this now, just wait.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Baldwin. Thank you. OK. I think the next name is Danny Lynn Bencher. Does that ring a bell with anyone? This is beautiful penmanship, but it, we can't figure it out. Pencher, maybe. Penchon. It's possible. I'm sorry. We'll go to Tim Young, and then Bob Williams, and Robert Setzover, Sebover, Seborer. Tim Young? Thank you.

Tim Young:

Hi. My name is Tim Young. I from Goldendale, Washington. My comments were originally mostly directed at the Department of Energy and now that I see how they dominate the Tri-Party Agreement process, I'm glad I did direct my comments toward them. For the record I would like the FFTF to remain in the Tri-Party Agreement. I don't think any time there is a change in political agenda in Washington, D.C., the agenda here in Washington state should change. To get onto that, I would like to thank everyone who came here tonight, and has taken the time to come all the other nights, and days of public hearings on Hanford and tritium production, and cleanups, and shutdowns, and buildups, and tear downs, and poisons, and polluters, and deniers, and profiteers. We've seen tests on, and tests in, and tests over, and containment, and control, and confrontation, and cons. Payloads, payoff, pay backs, payrolls, misinformation, formulation, reformulation, reconsideration, recapitulation, enticement, lack of enforcement, and behind it all, enrichment.

1 We were promised mutually assured destruction and now we've got it. In our  
2 minds there was a blinding flash. You won't feel a thing, vaporize, that's  
3 that. Live it up today, tomorrow may never come. Well, tomorrow did come,  
4 again and again for the last 50 years. Mutually assured destruction is here,  
5 the slow version, the Pacific Islander version, the thyroid cancer version,  
6 the Chernobyl version, the Hanford version. We all carry a little bit of this  
7 legacy inside and there's plenty more for every one, plant and animal. Now  
8 we've got the latest scam, the latest scheme. There's got to be some more  
9 poison milk in that tainted golden cow, another way for the same people that  
10 have been milking us for the last 50 years to skim some more cream off the top  
11 and leave us cleaning the stall.

12  
13 I'm tired of being terrorized, threatened, lied to, poisoned, and ripped off.  
14 Do us all a favor for now, just give Boeing, Rockwell, Bechtel, Battelle, TRW  
15 Environmental, Fluor, and Informatics the money not to make weapons, not to  
16 poison the earth, and not to kill in our name. Pay off the criminals. In the  
17 meantime I'll play along, to the Department of Energy I would like to say: Be  
18 honest, don't say the public is involved in these decisions when the plans are  
19 already made by your people, politicians, and industry lobbyists before the  
20 public gets wind of them. Secret meetings and memorandums flow back and  
21 forth; there's a revolving door between the corporations that profit off the  
22 Department of Energy facilities and the administration of the Department of  
23 Energy. In truth, the Department of Energy symbol should be a giant funnel  
24 pouring tax dollars into an industry that's beyond our democratic control.

25  
26 If you are sincere about getting the public involved, let's put some money  
27 behind it. Let's debate the issues in the real public forum--television.  
28 There are two sides to these so-called decisions, but only one side dominates  
29 what the general public sees and hears. The people who oppose the further  
30 development, proliferation, and deployment of nuclear weapons and nuclear  
31 technologies should be given money to have their side heard by the public,  
32 just as those who profit from your decisions are given tax breaks for their  
33 lobbying and advertising expenses.

34  
35 Furthermore, if a plan such as this FFTF reactivation is not carried out,  
36 those who spoke out and worked against it should be rewarded with a bonus for  
37 saving the tax payers money just as contractors like Fluor and Boeing are  
38 rewarded for saving money. Finally, I would urge the department to take a que  
39 from your contractors and the politicians that serve them. When you are  
40 addressing the public, don't complicate the issues with technical jargon, use  
41 common words in a style that anyone can understand. I'll give you an example  
42 that works for me. Which part of close it down, and clean it up, don't you  
43 understand?

44  
45 Pat Serie:

46 Bob Williams, then Robert Seborer and Chandra Radiance, please.  
47  
48

002424

1 Bob Williams:

3 Hi. My name's Bob Williams, I live here in Hood River, um, I'm from downriver  
4 so that you know that I'm not in favor of deleting the milestones agreed upon,  
5 in the, by the TPA. The mission as I understand it was to clean up and that's  
6 what I think almost everybody here, at least the people from here, want you to  
7 do. I thought of a great quotation, it's not mine, I've been listening to  
8 some really creative people here and I'm sort of, I don't really think that I  
9 have so new to add anymore. I would like to answer the fellow who implied  
10 that the people who protested against the war in Vietnam lost the protest, uh,  
11 we stopped the war. Um, I don't think anybody here should ever underestimate  
12 the power of, I have a friend named Brother Blues, a storyteller from  
13 Cambridge, and he says: "You never know what two people getting together are  
14 going to become critical mass." I hate to use that kind of metaphor but we  
15 have more than two people here tonight and I think it's pretty clear where  
16 people stand.

17 One of the quotations I wanted to leave you with is that: "The battle of  
18 people against power is the battle of memory against forgetting." Um, if you  
19 think about that a little bit, and um, the other one is in wondering whether  
20 or not things like this are just for show, whether this is just your giving us  
21 a chance to vent and maybe think that we've done something by standing up here  
22 and saying something, and then business goes on as usual, which seems to be  
23 the way a lot of things have happened. Um, there's another quotation, and I  
24 wish I could attribute these, but I can't remember quite who said them: "Much  
25 of what we see and hear serves to make fraud seem respectable." And I hope  
26 that this is not a case of that, I hope that these hearings are not used to  
27 make it seem as if the citizens have had a voice and everything just goes on  
28 and ignoring us. Thank you.

29 Pat Serie:

30 Thank you, Mr. Williams. Robert Seborer will be followed by Chandra Radiance  
31 and Daniel Lichtenwald, please.

32 Robert Seborer:

33 My name is Robert Seborer. I'm from Goldendale, Washington. I have a  
34 petition signed by 128 mostly Goldendale residents. The petition says that we  
35 oppose the following two proposals: 1) that Hanford be deleted from the  
36 cleanup agreement of 1989; 2) that tritium production for nuclear weapons be  
37 started at Hanford. I spent about an hour gathering signatures and got 63.  
38 Not one person approached refused to sign and I'd like to hand you the  
39 petition. Over ten years ago, four carloads of Goldendale residents went to  
40 Hanford and joined a demonstration against the N Reactor. Together with such  
41 important people as Senator Mark Hatfield, we stopped the N Reactor from  
42 activation. I would like to stress that all this talk of the beneficial side  
43 effects of war and production for war, in this case radioactive isotopes, is  
44 an insult to the intelligence of the American people.

002425



Pat Serie:

Chandra Radiance, please. Thank you.

Chandra Radiance:

I don't really have a prepared speech. My name is Chandra Radiance. I've lived in the Columbia Gorge since 1990, and I have two boys, actually I also forgot my prop. Um, so, there's definitely a few points that I would like to bring up. One is that I wonder what you people from Hanford think is causing the cancer that you're trying to stop with the radioisotopes. I do have a degree in pathology from UC Davis, and all the time I was receiving education it was the most obvious to anyone that radioactive isotopes are a form of mutation of the cells, which does cause cancer, so, um, just takes a little common sense. I would like, um, you to definitely consider the impact of not living up to your agreement, the Tri-Parties, the three organizations who are supposedly representing us tax paying citizens, need to show their accountability to us by keeping their agreement to keep this reactor as part of the original plan, and that they cannot meet their milestones is not to let go of the milestones altogether. If they have to delay the dates that would be better than just forgetting about the whole thing. I think that you guys who talked about how could we possibly live with ourselves for passing up the opportunity to save millions of people from radioactive death of cancer, I think several thousand or whatever, I think there's more millions of people that are risking exposure from continuing what's going on with the way it is. Just in closing, my two boys who are eight and ten years old, the only type of meat they will eat is smoked salmon, smoked steelhead. This is caught by Native American Indians who live somewhere around Celilo. It's caught somewhere above The Dalles Dam and I ate some of this tonight. And I must say that every time I feed this to them, I must wonder and pray that this fish did not intake some radioactive isotope on its trip up the river where they spawn sometimes in that area. So, I think that it's a real situation that we all care about here in the Northwest, and uh, we really need the people that are in charge of this to listen to us and show us that it really matters that we're here tonight instead of spending time with our families.

Pat Serie:

Thank you very much. OK. We have Daniel Lichtenwald, then W.P. Mead, and I believe Tobias Amman. Mr. Lichtenwald.

Daniel Lichtenwald:

My name is Dan Lichtenwald. I live in Goldendale. The FFTF should not be removed from the TPA cleanup schedule. The consideration of such removal diverts from what any sampling of national or even regional opinion has and would continue to reveal. While there's a, we're given a top down executive branch decisions that paint a picture of impartial, legal deliberations in the public interest. There are persistent shadows of less than balanced motives driving the impulse to fire up FFTF. Investigative reporting has pointed to a claue of nuke-culture prospectors. Immoveable flock of technocrats, revolving door nuclear culture and ... and public money speculators, and opportunists.

3 They propose an entrepreneurial bonanza involving a giveaway of a facility  
4 bought and paid for with public money to a private consortium to sell products  
5 of the FFTF hydrogen bomb parts back to the public.

6 Reports have even implicated that FFTF is open for reprocessing of nuclear  
7 waste from overseas sources. It has all the appearance of a windfall profit  
8 solution in search of a problem. The medical benefit comes as a breathless  
9 afterthought from the PR wing of the private enterprise consortium and it's  
10 hacks and shills. It serves as a sugar coat for the poison pill of tritium  
11 production. It has its origins in the same bonanza scams and implied  
12 assurances that have characterized the profound failure and social  
13 responsibility that has infested Hanford operations since Colonel Mathias  
14 first scouted that unfortunate piece of Washington state in 1942.

15 To associate an uncontrollable source of tumors, which would follow from  
16 thermonuclear detonations with a byproduct benefit of experimental tumor  
17 treatment, is morbidly cynical. A laboratory elite, self absorbed in the  
18 novelty of playing with laboratory curiosities, presents itself nobly toiling  
19 to treat tumors. Nothing is said about dealing with the sources of tumors.

20 Pat Serie:

21 Mr. Lichtenwald, you need to finish, please.

22 Dan Lichtenwald:

23 Yes. Is this because there is no fee structure for prevention? The  
24 Tri-Cities economic dependency on Hanford operations should be directed  
25 towards shutdown and cleanup of that fouled corner of the United States and  
26 the world and not toward the perpetuation of cold war policies. Give it up.  
27 You gave us the bomb, it was dropped. But somehow the intoxicating, sexy,  
28 secret, black budget, elite life is hard to die. It's hard to give up. In  
29 any case, any case for medical isotope production should be totally divorced,  
30 totally divorced from any vestige of the nuclear weapons heritage, including  
31 DOE and its assigns.

32 Pat Serie:

33 Thank you, Mr. Lichtenwald.

34 Dan Lichtenwald:

35 If there's any case for that, FFTF should be retained on the TPA and be  
36 neutralized and stabilized along with the rest of the waste.

37 Pat Serie:

38 Thank you very much. I think we have Mr. Mead and then Tobias Amman. So,  
39 Mr. Mead, when were you married in Hood River?

40 W.P. Mead:

41 Oh, you're already grinning, guys.

002427

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002428

Pat Serie:

The question is, when were you married in Hood River? When were you married in Hood River?

W.P. Mead:

Oh, that was 1994, up on the hill. July 22nd? My wife's gonna kill me if I'm wrong. OK. All right, my name is Bill Mead and I am the Director of the Public Safety Resources Agency. I am also a technical resource for Hanford Action of Oregon, and we oppose the deletion of the FFTF from the TPA milestones. I have had formal training and experience in nuclear reactor maintenance and operations, and environmental safety controls and dosimeter monitoring systems, and I have operated a reactor as a part of my training. I also have received formal ERDA-approved training in the effects and physics of nuclear weapons, was on a national NGO Advisory Panel regarding the X-ray laser SDI weapon that was to be powered by a thermonuclear weapon, and had technical discussions about those designs with isotope project managers at Livermore. Before my retirement from federal service, I twice attended FEMA-sponsored national disaster institutes, and was then assigned to help write emergency response plans for emergency reactions, or radioactive accidents. Now based on this experience, plus several years of additional training and research and recent discussions with other persons that are currently working in these fields, it is my overwhelming belief that any modification of the FFTF reactor's core to produce tritium would greatly increase the probabilities of an accident, resulting in the possible release of radiation to the surrounding environment and populations.

Now my technical report or argument against the FFTF is almost 52 pages, 130 kilobytes, so I hope you don't misplace this. That happens out there, Mr. Hughes. FFTF is a fast fission breeder reactor. As such its basic design decreases its efficiency because it does not produce the type of thermal neutrons that should be used to strike with the M-6 targets to produce tritium, and most likely it would create more plutonium than it destroyed if it used a MOX fuel. I should explain that a nuclear ...

END OF TAPE

... approximately 500 weapons per year. Somebody said they had 8,800 around there, on a seven year cycle to service that, I don't, I still think you are behind times. OK, we still use an average of four grams per tritium per weapon and the reason why is because when you fuse one gram of tritium it is equal to about a hundred tons of TNT. OK? The tritium we want to produce at FFTF can even be made within the nuclear weapons themselves without ever having to be made in a standard reactor or accelerator and we can do this by simply wrapping a relatively inexpensive nonradioactive chemical compound around the weapons core assembly. Now, all this assumes that we really need to rely on H bombs. This is not true when we consider the devastating effects of before and after photos of Nagasaki using the plutonium from Hanford. OK?

1 And we've improved, such as primitive bombs. OK, the um, I've already done  
2 that part. OK, now remember, time for the pennies folks, here.

3  
4 OK, the total amount of nuclear explosives used in 1945 to test the first  
5 A bomb and then completely destroy two Japanese cities weighed less than a  
6 single penny. We don't need this. OK? Now according to my handy dandy  
7 nuclear effects bomb computer that was included in the joint DOE-ERDA  
8 publication, we scale from anywhere from one kiloton to 20 megatons. We even  
9 have dial-a-yield, and we can hit virtually any target that we want with  
10 accuracies up to two to three meters from launch point will equate to  
11 50 meters impact. We can do that at thousands of miles. OK? Now to give you  
12 an idea, you said we didn't have weapons delivery capability? In, ah, if you  
13 use the standard equation for a kill target on a hardened target lethality,  
14 the Hiroshima bomb was 0.069% on a scale where a hundred is a 100% probability  
15 of a hardened target kill. A cruise missile is 1,519.9 and a Trident II  
16 submarine is 879,000. Don't tell me we don't have delivery systems.

17  
18 Pat Serie:

19 Mr. Mead, you need to finish, please.

20  
21 W.P. Mead:

22 OK. Good. I was going to say something about that but I should tell you that  
23 we can, we can buy it from Canada. We can reconfigure the weapon as I told  
24 you. We can also include miniature charged particle accelerators to inject a  
25 pulse of accelerated deuterium nuclei at tritium targets and this will use  
26 less than one thousandth of the tritium in a weapon that we normally use now.

27  
28 OK. In conclusion I want to add for the record that of the four sodium-cooled  
29 reactors that I studied that were used during the design process of the FFTF  
30 reactor, I noted that three of those cores have been destroyed by accidents  
31 associated with the use of liquid-sodium coolant while the fourth was  
32 decommissioned due to safety concerns. Each of those reactors was, of those  
33 four reactors, was several times smaller than FFTF, had exclusions zones  
34 several times greater, were farther away from population centers, and were  
35 designed with state-of-the-art reactors, and they had redundant safety  
36 features that failed.

37  
38 OK. We also need to understand that the characteristics of a liquid-sodium  
39 coolant are very hazardous in itself. In some cases those risks may be even  
40 greater than the potential energy release of a nuclear excursion within the  
41 reactor's core. In a single reactor that was decommissioned before its core  
42 had melted down, although it was designed to withstand a nuclear explosion  
43 equivalent to a mere 300 pounds of TNT, for the nuclear excursion, its design  
44 basis postulated that a chemical reaction of the sodium made an explosion  
45 within the reactor's core could reach the equivalent of 10,000 pounds TNT.  
46 Now FFTF is a unique reactor. It's the largest, it's the last operable  
47 reactor of its type in the United States because all the others have been shut  
48 down due to core melting accidents and a history of safety problems. Yet

002428

1 we're talking about, yeah, you like the lemon, and ah, and ah, we're talking  
2 about salvaging it. FTF, FTF will not be able to safely operate in a tritium  
3 production mode and we have other more cost-effective methods to supply the  
4 tritium needed to maintain our nuclear weapons. We don't need it, we don't  
5 want it, we can't afford the risk. Drain the reactor now and retrain those  
6 folks and put them to work cleaning up their mess.  
7

8 Pat Serie:

9 Thank you, Mr. Mead. OK. We have Tobias Amman followed by Nina Pochna and  
10 Marilyn Jio, please.  
11

12 Tobias Amman:

13 My name is Tobias Amman and I live in Hood River now seven years or so. I  
14 can't believe that they are actually talking about weapons and how we can  
15 destroy and all those things. This is so terrible. This is a shame. Humans  
16 are the most cruel things there are. Anyway I am ... the people here from the  
17 Tri-Cities to counter the arguments of reasonably concerned citizens and  
18 taxpayers. We don't want the FTF restarted. I don't want it. This is not a  
19 good thing and I sympathize with all the ideas with the cancer treatment.  
20 That's a great idea. It's the first time I hear that you can heal cancer  
21 anyway. It might make sense, nobody will guarantee us that all this tritium  
22 that will be produced will be used for medical purposes. You won't guarantee  
23 that it will be used for nuclear weapons for sure and that will cause a lot  
24 more cancer that you can ever possibly cure. We don't want that tritium.  
25 Tritium, how do I say that? Tritium, that is a pretty hard tongue breaker for  
26 me. But it will be mostly used for nuclear weapons and more nuclear weapons.  
27 We already have enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world many times. It  
28 seems a waste, a waste of taxpayers money and all that. Let's clean up  
29 instead.  
30

31 How can anything the Department of Ecology say that the focus is on cleanup  
32 and then at the same time put a reactor on standby when it is promised, when  
33 it was promised, in 1995 to be cleaned up. You said that, Roger, I don't  
34 remember your last name. Let's clean up instead, please. Let's not change  
35 the already set milestones. How about the milestones and the taxpayers should  
36 decide on changes. Why don't we ask the whole population of the United States  
37 whether we, be restarted or not, that will be democracy. There are plenty of  
38 jobs in cleanup. I want to say one more thing to atomic energy and all those  
39 nuclear related things. Theoretically, if you, if this is a good way of  
40 producing energy and all those things that is clean, theoretically, it's  
41 clean, it's efficient, and all that, that only the producing part and only if  
42 it's played really safe and everything is great, does not react outdoors that  
43 have cracks and things like come from Germany, and there's lots of those  
44 things and they leak and this is all just no good.  
45

46 And so theoretically, atomic and things are really a good way to go, but the  
47 disposal has never been solved. They talked about salt mines. That was a  
long time ago. Well, there could be earthquake, what if it is in and down the

002429

1 road and it could affect the groundwater, not good. You could shoot it to the  
2 sun all right, but that's if you could change the rate of the earth so you  
3 could not change our whole circle around the whole thing. Then I just read  
4 something in the newspaper, it said something about ocean floor. Put it on  
5 the bottom of the oceans because it has mud layers. Well that's in the water  
6 and that might pollute a lot of stuff.  
7

8 Pat Serie:

9 Mr. Amman, you need to finish, please.

10 Tobias Amman:

11 Nothing is safe. One more sentence.

002429

12 Pat Serie:

13 OK.

14 Tobias Amman:

15 How can we think about using atomic products if the disposal has never been  
16 solved yet?

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17 Pat Serie:

18 OK. Thank you. Thank you. Nina Pochna, then Marilyn Jio, and  
19 Damon Douglass, please.

20 Nina Pochna:

21 My name is Nina Pochna and I'm here representing Osprey Hill Sanctuary, which  
22 is located between the Columbia River and Mount Hood and the West Hills of the  
23 Hood River Valley. I'm here, came here, tonight to say that for the record,  
24 that I am opposed to the removal of FFTF milestones from the Tri-Party  
25 Agreement. I didn't come with anything prepared to say besides that, but I  
26 would like to share with you what I have heard while listening all these  
27 hours. And I do very much respect the fact that you did come here to listen  
28 and I hope that our time and energy spent here together does get recorded and  
29 does mean something. The one thing that I didn't know was that the EPA  
30 wouldn't be represented here and I'm disappointed in that. I came fairly far  
31 tonight from the woods down to here and I really expected them to be here as  
32 they are part of the contract we are talking about and I question the validity  
33 of this process without them. I also did not know that there would be such a  
34 focus on radioactive isotopes in this discussion.  
35

002430

36 I would like to add to the record two words that I haven't heard tonight in  
37 relationship to cancer, in relationship to medicine, and that is plant  
38 medicine. I'm a healer; I collect plants; I share medicine through touch,  
39 through the plant spirits and the plants themselves. As Department of  
40 Ecology, you work in this area, these lands, the forest. I know them  
41 intimately from the Columbia River to Mount Hood to Mount Adams; it's my home  
42 and I know intimately the plant spirits that live here. So plant medicine is  
43 abundant here, probably one of the richest places in the world and one of the  
44

1 most amazing opportunities to help give power back to ourselves for healing.  
2 So I would like that mentioned as we have talked a lot about radioactive  
3 isotopes as if that is the only hope that we have, because if we open  
4 ourselves to what is here, it's very rich.  
5

6 Another thing that I would like to say is that I have heard a lot of fear  
7 tonight and that comes from a place perhaps of fear of creating something so  
8 big that we don't know how to stop. And it seems like the radiation that has  
9 been affecting people in this area, now there is a call to produce more and I  
10 hear the fear of death and looking for a cause to help prevent death from  
11 cancer, and yet what we are talking about is in danger as people living here  
12 together. So I just would like to end and again thanking you for coming here  
13 to listen and knowing that having experience with contracts that sometimes get  
14 difficult and all interests involved are pressed from other things, that one  
15 never loses when you come from a place of the heart. Thank you.  
16

17 Pat Serie:

18 Thank you, Ms. Pochna. Marilyn Jio, followed by Damon Douglass and  
19 Catherine Zangar, please.  
20

21 Marilyn Jio:

22 My name is Marilyn Jio. I didn't plan to speak tonight. In fact I ran into  
23 Dirk Dunning at the good old buffalo burger place in Boardman and said I was  
24 just coming to listen. But I feel a sense of responsibility to tell you what  
25 my experience has been around all of this. I'm not a Hanford downwinder. I  
26 am a nurse and in the past five years I have had the privilege of working with  
27 a health agency explaining to people that they had been exposed to radioactive  
28 releases as children from the Hanford nuclear site to thousands, hundreds of  
29 thousands of curies of radioactive iodine through their milk as small children  
30 and in response to that, my job was to tell people this information about  
31 exposures through the river and through the air and through the soil and  
32 through the food. In response, people shared with me what their experience  
33 has been and I carry with me now, the stories of thousands of people who are  
34 just a part of the 40,000 people that we have on the mailing list now for the  
35 Hanford health information network. You've heard some of the stories tonight  
36 from people. I've heard thousands more. People whose stories are unique  
37 because they are so different from health histories that I've heard in other  
38 places I've worked as a nurse throughout this country, Chicago, Arizona,  
39 Nevada. I haven't heard the kinds of densities of health conditions that  
40 really ought to be rare as I've heard from these folks who have one thing in  
41 common, and that's where they grew up, where they lived between 1944 and 1972,  
42 in particular. That, that tells me that there might be something to this  
43 business of radiation exposure. Just in my heart of hearts, my own opinion as  
44 a nurse. I think that Hanford made a big step forward in the Tri-Party  
45 Agreement promising to clean up the site. I would be very disappointed to see  
46 that the, that there would be reneging now and that the Tri-Party Agreement  
47 will not be carried out.

002431

1 It was really important that Hanford be cleaned up. Hanford will happen  
again, as it did in 1945, I think there is a very high potential of that if  
people don't keep it out of the nuclear bomb-making business. If the tritium  
4 is produced, we're back in the bomb-making business, and it's very important.  
5 Thirty-two million dollars a year is spent just to keep the Fast Flux Test  
6 Facility in hot standby mode. The Department of Energy has thrown 5 million  
7 dollars towards a medical monitoring screening program for people who were  
8 exposed. For the thousands of people that I have listened to, 5,000 thousand  
9 dollars. Now one year alone of the money that is spent to keep the Fast Flux  
10 Test Facility on hot standby could not only fund a medical monitoring  
11 screening program and a registry for these people, but it could also go a long  
12 way toward providing some dollars for health care even if nobody knows if the  
13 conditions were caused by Hanford or not. So that's, that's what I would be  
14 for. Close down the production and help the people who we already know are  
15 affected.

16  
17 Pat Serie:

18 Thank you, Ms. Jio. OK. Damon Douglass. Thank you, Mr. Douglass. After  
19 Mr. Douglass, we will have Catherine Zangar, Bill Bires, and Paige Knight,  
20 please.

21  
22 Damon Douglass:

23 Um, hi. I don't know that I can see straight anymore, I'm that tired, but uh,  
24 I just wanted you all to know that I really want FFTF not restarted that I  
25 want it kept part of the TPA. That I understand what a lot of people who came  
from Hanford have to say. I grew up in Schnectady, New York, a mile and a  
half from Knolls Atomic Power Lab and all the people who were my friends'  
28 parents completely denied that there was any problems and they are the same  
29 people who spoke tonight, and as much as I appreciate all that you had to say,  
30 it's just denial.

31  
32 Pat Serie:

33 Just a second I want to get your ... OK. Catherine Zangar, please.

34  
35 Catherine Zangar:

36 Thank you. My name is Catherine Zangar. I live here in the Gorge. I grew up  
37 in Richland, Washington. I lived there until I left for college. I spent  
38 about a quarter of a century near the river and I can't speak about this topic  
39 without some emotion. I love the desert. I love the river. I grew up in a  
40 culture of nuclear energy. My father was heavily involved with the  
41 development of Hanford. I still have family working there, including research  
42 and medicine, people who inspect tanks, people who are nuclear physicists, and  
43 engineers. So we have interesting family discussions. When I was in Girl  
44 Scouts in high school our demonstration for the Boy Scouts roundup was a  
45 demonstration of nuclear energy. Our only museum in town was about nuclear  
46 energy, and yet in high school, I and many of my friends could clearly come to  
47 the conclusion that nuclear energy was a mistake without any further education



with what we were offered in high school, understanding the half-life of materials produced and the leakage.

At that time, in high school, in the '60s, we were told that there was understood how to clean up the mess and they were going to do it, and I have been waiting 30 years for that to happen. No information has ever come out truthfully, completely, and honestly from the powers that be that operate Hanford, including my own relatives. I have been dismayed and enraged by the situation there. I worked in Alaskan construction for many years and all over the Northwest. The first time I heard about the water contamination was through a national fisherman's journal in Kodiak, Alaska. I read a superb article and it mentioned that as an aside, that by the way, if you are swimming in the river in those years, which I did and so did my friends, watch out. Look what it did to fish. Look what it's going to do to you.

I was in Fairbanks, Alaska talking to people who built that wonderful plant you operate there and listening to the ironworkers and the pipefitters describe to me what they got away with in the specs and in the installation and what they covered up and what they did versus what Quality Control thought they did. I'm in Quality Control when I was in construction and I understand the intent of the people who wrote the specification. I understand what happened and they are not the same. They are very different. You cannot operate any nuclear facility with any guarantee of safety because the human error is always there and human misintentions are there and I, I've seen that over and over again.

I have a friend with cancer. People, Fred Hutchins, if we are going to talk about cancer, tell her it's from radiation. She's never left the Tri-Cities in her life. She didn't go to work at Hanford. She's in a life-threatening struggle with a very painful disease. She's cracked the teeth out of her mouth from the pain of this bone cancer. Radioisotopes can't help her. She never chose to take a risk. We talked about choice. I, nor her, ever chose to take a risk when we swam in the river. We thought we were having fun in a safe way and we never chose to take a risk. I don't smoke cigarettes because I don't choose to take risks. I don't drink beer a day. I do anything to protect myself. I drive with seat belts. I choose not to be exposed to any radiation that is unnecessary. I consider anything in the way of nuclear production unnecessary exposure and risk. I think that there are alternatives to radioisotopes; I believe in prevention and health. I know there are many causes to cancer besides radiation and that we can do a lot about it. I'm not against radioisotopes. I think they can be produced somewhere else and we'll buy them. I don't think you can talk about efficiency and cost effectiveness at the cost of the pollution. So, all I want to go on the record as thoroughly opposing any move towards removing those milestones or anything else that you would have towards production rather than environmental cleanup. And that's all I want to hear from them in the future. Thank you.

1 Pat Serie:

2 Thanks very much. OK. Now Bill Bires, then Paige Knight, and Nancy Metrick,  
3 please. Mr. Bires.

4  
5 Bill Bires:

6 Good evening. I must confess that I am an interloper. I came down from  
7 Portland, or came up from Portland tonight. When you were at Portland I asked  
8 a rhetorical question. I, I ...

9  
10 Pat Serie:

11 Excuse me. May I ask one question? Are you representing Hanford Watch?

12  
13 Bill Bires:

14 No, I'm speaking for myself.

15  
16 Pat Serie:

17 All right, thank you.

18  
19 Bill Bires:

20 Uh, the uh, this whole chain of reaction was brought on by an unsolicited  
21 letter to the Secretary of Energy. Is that, is that correct?

22  
23 Ernie Hughes:

24 That was one, that was one of the factors but that's not it all by itself.

25  
26 Bill Bires:

27 But you, you, you, uh, gave the same talk tonight as you gave up in Portland  
28 and I, and I, uh, gathered from what you said that this unsolicited letter was  
29 a major factor in Ms. O'Leary's decision to put the FFTF on a hot standby. Is  
30 that correct?

31  
32 Ernie Hughes:

33 It is fair to say it was a major factor.

34  
35 Bill Bires:

36 And who is this group?

37  
38 Ernie Hughes:

39 It's a group called Advanced Nuclear Medical Systems.

40  
41 Bill Bires:

42 Are they still in existence?

43  
44 Ernie Hughes:

45 Yes, they are ...

46  
47 Bill Bires:

48 Uh, huh.

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Ernie Hughes:  
To the best of my knowledge.

Bill Bires:

OK. And what about insurance? Would they covered under the Price-Anderson,  
ah ...

Ernie Hughes:

I've never seen their proposal. I've never read their proposal. Their  
proposal was turned back to them by the Department of Energy as being  
premature and it's no longer being considered by the Department of Energy.

Bill Bires:

So this song and dance about radioisotopes is just that, a song and dance  
because that was the premise on which the original proposal was made. Is that  
correct?

Ernie Hughes:

No. We would, we would produce medical isotopes and make them available to  
the medical community for research.

Bill Bires:

How long would it take this, this FFTF, to be capable of producing these  
radioactive isotopes, these, uh?

Ernie Hughes:

If we, if we went through an Environmental Impact Statement, which would take  
about a year and if there was an approval to restart the reactor, it would  
take about three and a half years to restart the reactor.

Bill Bires:

Oh. Uh, I'm, I'm a cancer fighter myself and I'm here as a cancer fighter and  
I want the thing shut down because I'm convinced that more cancers have been  
caused by the nuclear program in the United States than, than this program  
would ever cure. I'm a, I was at a place called Desert Rock in Nevada in 1951  
and I stood underneath five of those bombs and I stood on the periphery of two  
more at an operation called "Buster Jangle." I know of where of I speak as  
far as the destructive forces of these things and I know where of I speak  
regarding the concern that the government has for the welfare of those it has  
exposed. I've talked to the people in Cedar City and Parawan [sp.] and Saint  
George and Yama [sp.] and Shivris [sp.] and Duckwiler [sp.] and those people  
are the ones who have been directly affected by the fallout from the nuclear  
test site in Nevada, and those people are by and large opposed to the  
continuation of the nuclear program and their lives and their families' lives  
have been affected. My family has been affected. My daughter said to me,  
"Dad, if I get pregnant will my child be affected by your exposure at the  
Nevada Test Site?" Why the hell should she have to concern herself with those  
kinds of things?

Pat Serie:

Mr. Bires, I need you to finish, please.

Bill Bires:

And furthermore, what is going to happen to real estate values along the Columbia River when this stuff starts coming down the river? What are, what are people going to say about that? I'm aware, I know you are aware of the case in New Mexico in which the court found that real estate values were affected by the condemnation of property and rerouting of the road through a farm, so ...

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Pat Serie:

Mr. Bires, I need to ask you to finish, please.

Bill Bires:

Yeah, ... so you people who live along the river be concerned about your real estate values.

002434

Pat Serie:

Thank you very much. OK. We have Paige Knight and Nancy Metrick and Cherie Holenstein, please.

Paige Knight:

Don't start ticking the clock on me yet. Bill's question, his first question was not answered. He asked when, uh when, the isotopes would be made after the tritium mission. You only said that the reactor would get started in about three and a half years if all went as planned.

002435

Ernie Hughes:

The isotopes would be made in conjunction with the tritium mission. In the first core there are three target areas that would be designated for medical isotopes. So they'd be start, the isotopes would start production with the very first core.

Paige Knight:

Well, ah, the literature that we read early on in the whole scheming of this was that tritium would have to be produced for 20 years before it could be that, uh, FFTF could be turned into an isotope reactor. Is this not correct, Greg?

002435

Greg deBruler:

Actually, I want to give you a quote. This is from Mr. Mecca at the United States Department of Energy. When ANMS came out with this proposal to produce medical isotopes at one of the meetings that Hanford was having, that Richland hosted, Mr. Mecca stood up and said that the earliest that they could have medical isotopes would be twelve years from the time that they started producing tritium. And I said, "Well, how can they tell us that we get medical isotopes?" and he says, "Well, I don't know but they can." Now

002389

there's a proposal, they covered their bases, though. Remember, every time you say something, they go back and plan, try to cover their bases, so the next plan that came out was this: They are going to modify the reactor on a maybe. It's going to cost them about 57 million dollars. Those are the estimated numbers to modify the reactor to see if they can be successful in extracting medical isotopes while they are producing tritium. That's a DOE document that I am citing by the way.

Pat Serie:

OK. Paige, did you want to go on with your comments, please?

Paige Knight:

So, uh, now I'm going to, ah, start my thing.

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Pat Serie:

And you are representing the Hanford Watch, correct?

Paige Knight:

Ah, yes. I'm representing Hanford Watch from Portland, Oregon, and I actually came down here to read a letter to all of you tonight from Senator Hatfield that calls this whole scheme inherently evil. It is a wonderful letter. It is a powerful letter, regardless of how you think about some of his other policies from the past, OK? So I'm going to offer to pass that out to people who want to read it because I know that we are not too dumb to read, or to understand the issues, and I'm going to give the rest of my time to Dan Dancer here from Hood River.

002435

Pat Serie:

OK. Thank you.

Paige Knight:

So anybody who wants the letter.

002435

Pat Serie:

Good. Mr. Dancer.

Daniel Dancer:

My name is Daniel Dancer. I live here on the Columbia River and I'm going to speak tonight for Central Cascades Alliance which is a local conservation/education group. We have a sophisticated, uh, overhead here. Can you see that? It's about time somebody did that. I want to talk just a little bit about time. Because the byproducts, the isotopes that are going to be produced if, if the FF, if I looked at it again, FFTF starts up some of those byproducts are going to be around for a hundred thousand years and we don't, it's hard to conceive of how long a time that is. For instance, plutonium, which is probably the deadliest or one of the deadliest, substances that humans have ever created has a half-life of around 40,000 years. I mean this gentleman here, Ernie, when I asked earlier didn't even know how long the

002436

half-life was, which appalled me because if you are messing with this stuff, you better know how long it's going to be around for.

Then I also learned tonight that there's another isotope called californium-252. Anybody ever heard about that? I was born in California and I really resent the fact that this thing is named after my state. But it is seven million times more toxic than plutonium. It will be released in minute quantities no doubt, but it will be released in the environment for about 100 thousand years at least. But before we, I have a prop here that we're gonna, I'm going to demonstrate how 100 thousand years is, but first, while we're doing that, we are going to go backwards in time. Let's just go back, if we call 1,000 years one foot (that's going to be our time frame). If we go back two inches, we're going back to the Declaration of Independence. If we go back a foot, we're going back to about the time when Joan of Ark was burned at the stake for being a witch. If we go back two feet, Christ was born. If we go back about ten feet, that is about the time the Missoula floods came through here and thank God we didn't have Hanford around then or we wouldn't be here, we'd be a dead zone for thousands of years if we had a Hanford when the Missoula floods went through. And who knows, I mean, what's the likelihood of something like that happening again? How many ice ages are we going to have in the next hundred thousand years? I don't know. The greenhouse effect, probably going to happen, who knows how long we are going to have.

So anyway, I mean, 10,000 you go back another two feet, that's the end of recorded human history. So here we go, it starts at 100 feet. It's not even going to make it across this room and the first half inch of this red cloth is how long we have lived with radioactivity on this planet. The first half inch, considering that one foot equals 1,000 years. The first half inch and during that time, I just heard tonight, I've learn all kinds of things by sticking around here for four hours, 28,000 billion pounds of radioactive waste at Hanford and we spent 20 billion dollars trying to figure out what to do with it and we still haven't figured it out yet. And that's the first half inch of 100,000 years and I ask, is that the legacy that we want to leave the future? I mean do we really want to be, as this generation, this time, that produced this stuff. This half inch of the human time, or time on this planet. We are going to be cursed for four thousand generations. We'll be cursed for, you know, I doubt whether we're really, at the rate that we are going, whether we are going to make it more than two or three more generations. But potentially, we are going to be cursed for four thousand generations and all those that are directly working with this stuff and continue to do so. How can you sleep at night? Is that the legacy that you want to leave the future?

This is what we need to do with the FFT and this is, I have this cloth wrapped around this can sitting by the door and it's been used as a trash can. So that's where we are going to put this red line and that's what needs to happen. I've always been a firm believer that you have to do it in art first.

3  
4  
5 So here it goes. We're gonna stuff this 100,000 year toxic radioactive  
6 situation and put it where it belongs.  
7

8 Pat Serie:

9 Thank you, Mr. Dancer. We have Nancy Metrick then. I lost my number two,  
10 Cherie Holenstein and David Russell, please.  
11

12 Nancy Metrick:

002437

13 Hi. Hello. My name is Nancy Metrick and I came up from Portland. I'm an  
14 interloper but I'm really glad I did because I realize that I did not probably  
15 say the exact words that I needed to say in order to get on record, which is  
16 stop FFTF. Uh, I oppose any violation of the Tri-Party Agreement, and no  
17 changes to that agreement. You know, I have an, actually I have two  
18 embarrassing admissions to make. One of them is that I removed myself from  
19 the anti-nuclear movement for about 20 years. When I started, it was on the  
20 east coast opposing the Seabrook nuclear power reactor and what is really  
21 amazing, and I have to admit that part of it, is how painful it is to think  
22 that something could happen and that, well, first of all something like this  
23 could not have been addressed in that period of time that the will of the  
24 people will have succeeded and that it has some perhaps mitigating effect  
25 because it, uh, that there are still people who don't accept the will of the  
26 people no matter what you do in our government. And the other admission is  
27 that I, the reason that I got involved with this initially, or started to,  
28 which is just recently is because I thought they were talking about reopening  
29 Trojan and that scared me so much that I got all upset and I started writing a  
30 letter and I started saying, ah, well, you know, the Trojan, they closed the  
31 Trojan down and it was aptly named because of course there is the Trojan  
32 horse, and we all know what that brought. And I think it is still left. This  
33 is another Trojan. It is a Trojan horse. They can promise anything they want  
34 with it, you know, with good stuff inside but it's a robber and that's why  
35 it's at the gates and I think that's pretty clear.  
36

37 There's no time for mincing words. At any other time in history, words such  
38 as evil would be used for this modern day devil and I'm really glad that  
39 that's how that letter was addressed and for its apologists. And it's only  
40 greed and money that are an issue here, everybody here knows that, and  
41 everything else is a sham and we all know that, too. And I don't know what it  
42 is going to take. I don't know what it is going to take, but I know that it  
43 is really wonderful that there is this many people here and I can tell you one  
44 thing.  
45

46 No matter what you end up doing with this, if you end up going in the wrong  
47 direction, or any of the wrong directions is, it's not going to have no  
48 consequences. This is not going away. People know more than they ever did  
49 before. There's more information tore easily than they ever were before and  
50 it doesn't matter how many human workers that are bussed if that's to your,  
51 none of that matters. I think that is kind of interesting, the fact that I  
52 thought when I wrote to the Portland hearing basically there weren't, there

1 was no opposition at all. It was pretty amazing. But here there is a little  
2 and you know, the fact of the matter as I understood, they couldn't get there  
3 because of incimate weather and that brings up really big issues about the  
4 fact that what kind of transportation we do on our wonderful highways and if  
5 they couldn't make it here because of inclimate weather, what the hell are we,  
6 you know, what's going on? You know.  
7

8 The name of Hanford 20 years ago was a bit, was you know, synonymous with a  
9 business failure. The, you know, the report, the transport, the Jack Rabbit  
10 Alliance I assume is coming from that report, which was the transportation by  
11 jack rabbits of plutonium on the Hanford reservation years ago. Um, you know,  
12 the public is being asked once again to accept the unacceptable and you know  
13 it's not acceptable. It won't be accepted. I oppose the violation of the  
14 Tri-Party Agreement.  
15

16 Pat Serie:

17 Thank you very much. OK. We have Cherie Holenstein, David Russell, and  
18 Lynn Sims, please.  
19

20 Cherie Holenstein:

21 In case my button doesn't reflect my position, my position is to honor the  
22 Tri-Party Agreement and shut down the Fast Flux Test Facility without delay.  
23 All these years, all this destruction, all this waste, all this money, all  
24 these meetings. Would anyone, anyone here, if they could go back 50 years  
25 approve of this Hanford nightmare or are we caught up in a cycle of craziness  
26 and we do not know how to get out. Caught up with fancy titles, jobs. Caught  
27 up in greed. Caught up in being unable or unwilling to question whether wrong  
28 decisions were made. To any sane people, the only mission statement, the only  
29 milestone to be made is basic. Total cleanup, total cleanup, and stop making  
30 this stuff as you euphemistically refer to as waste. Waste that no one, no  
31 one, would want to have in their community if economics were not the largest  
32 part of the equation 'cause this is about economics. The economics of war.  
33

34 Five hundred billion dollars. One half of a trillion dollars is yearly spent  
35 on U.S. war efforts. The Pentagon budget, the storage of weapons, the debts  
36 of past wars, the interest we pay to the super rich to use their money to  
37 spend on the war economy, the cure and non-cure of veterans. One half of a  
38 trillion dollars a year. This is about our real economy, not about a cure for  
39 cancer. This is not dealing lightly with cancer. I do not believe there is  
40 anyone here tonight who has not been touched by cancer in their family, in  
41 their friends, in themselves. But if we are so concerned for cancer patients,  
42 why, oh why, are we dealing with the symptoms of cancer and not the causes of  
43 cancer? Could it be that there is more value, money, in the research of  
44 cancer than value in preventative health? The majority of folks want this  
45 stopped but as James Baldwin said years ago, "The jury does not refer to  
46 numbers, it refers to influence," so please be an exception. Listen to the  
47 majority of folks who say no to this death. Please be an exception for once,  
48 honor United States treaty. Thank you.

002438



1 Pat Serie:

2 Thank you, Ms. Holenstein. Mr. David Russell. After Mr. Russell, I have  
3 Lynn Sims, Kathleen Sneider, and Chuck Harker, Sharker.  
4

5 David Russell:

6 I come here tonight as a Gorge resident, a local businessman, and a windsurfer  
7 that spends a lot of time sailing in the river. I'd like to go on the record  
8 specifically stating that I am in favor of retaining the milestones as they  
9 exist and excluding the Fast Flux Test Facility from being restarted. We've  
10 heard a lot of emotional issues tonight and they're all relevant but I have a  
11 feeling that in the eyes of this panel, the key issue is those milestones and  
12 that's the bottom line and that's what we have to talk about and I have a  
13 sneaky suspicion that that's about the only thing that matters tonight is the  
14 yes vote, or the no vote, whichever column I end up in. So make sure that I  
15 end up in the negative one. Having said that, I question the validity of not  
16 having all three parties of the panel here and it just calls to question in my  
17 mind whether this is going to have a valid result. So I, I am going to watch  
18 this carefully and just see how it plays out because what happens here tonight  
19 reflects how the accountability of the government will be upheld.  
20

21 The mission clearly has been stated and that's one of clean up and not one of  
22 restarting. So that's basically where the issue stops as far as this meeting  
23 goes. Now I would just like to step on my soapbox for a moment and talk a  
24 little bit about some of the other issues that people have brought up. The  
25 first thing that comes to my mind is the length of time that nuclear waste  
26 lasts in the environment and I appreciate Dan's demonstration because it  
27 really drives home what we are talking about. It's real easy to lose sight of  
28 how long 24 million years is or 24,000. It is hard to comprehend those  
29 numbers but they are real and they are valid and in 50 years our generation  
30 has created a mess that will last for thousands of years in the future and we  
31 don't have to have any accountability to that. But we should and these  
32 decisions that are being made here tonight, or as a result of our testimony,  
33 the decisions that will be made that are based upon them, should reflect those  
34 future generations. They should think about what is going to happen down the  
35 line because most of us, face it, we really don't have to worry about it.  
36 We'll probably be able to take of our waste and hold on to the nasty stuff  
37 long enough for us not to really worry about it, but the people who do have to  
38 worry about it are the future generations that we leave behind.  
39

40 Pat Serie:

41 Mr. Russell, I need you to finish up.  
42

43 David Russell:

44 OK. And then the, the final issue about the length of time that, that, uh,  
45 nuclear energy lasts, the nuclear waste that we generate is the one thing that  
46 is on our side, is the fact that it's really expensive and that is the only  
47 thing that I like about nuclear energy is that it is so expensive that it's

002439

002439

1 probably gonna collapse under its own weight. So that is one of our only  
saviors.

4 Pat Serie:

5 Thank you, Mr. Russell.

6  
7 David Russell:

8 And one last note, to address the audience and not the, not the panel, there  
9 is a way for us to communicate with each other and that's the internet. And I  
10 did a little bit of research before coming here tonight and built a couple of  
11 simple web pages merely connecting links on the internet, and it's a fantastic  
12 resource and it is the way that we will communicate with each other and bring  
13 up the issues that need to be brought up, because it is hard to avoid them  
14 when they are exposed. So I, those of you with a computer, I suggest that you  
15 spend some time doing a little bit of searching and you are going to find a  
16 wealth of information out there that is very, very valuable. Thank you for  
17 your time.

002439

18  
19 Pat Serie:

20 Thank you, Mr. Russell. Lynn Sims. After Ms. Sims, we have Kathleen Snider  
21 and Chuck Sarker, please.

22  
23 Lynn Sims:

002440

24 Lynn Sims, Don't Waste Oregon. I've got to preface my remarks with a "I hate  
cancer" and I hope that we can be all healed in whatever way possible that we  
27 need. My name is Lynn Sims and I've worked for years now with Don't Waste  
Oregon, and Hanford Watch, and Hanford Action, and I had the great privilege  
28 of networking with a lot of people across the country who live in the shadow  
29 of aging nuclear power plants and leaking and contaminated Department of  
30 Energy sites. I think it's really good that we have all of these dialogues  
31 and hearings. I think the issues that we face are very complex and the  
32 solutions are very elusive. We do know, however, that we live right in the  
33 vicinity of the most contaminated site in the Western Hemisphere. And I want  
34 to thank you all for participating and coming out and speaking. And I live in  
35 Portland and at the last meeting I didn't get a chance to testify because it  
36 got too late and I'm really glad to have the chance to come over here and see  
37 the community here in Hood River and I want to stand in solidarity with all  
38 the community people here who take the time to be involved. It's really  
39 important and I want to thank you all for the opportunity to comment. I think  
40 public involvement is vital to our survival and the planet's survival. From  
41 now on in, these are profound decisions that we are making.

42  
43 With the advent of the harnessing of the power of the atom, we introduced one  
44 of the most complex dilemmas that humankind has ever faced. Multi-faceted and  
45 profound in nature, influenced by politics, science, ethics, economics,  
46 corporate interests, and visions for the future, this problem of the power of  
47 the atom haunts us. We have been unable to mask the terrible aspects of  
48 atomic power even by pursuing some peaceful atom. And now the FFTF situation

embraces both the definitions of atomic power. On the one hand, on a one face, promoting business as usual in maintaining absurdly large deterrence arsenals which threaten ...

END OF TAPE

Lynn Sims:

002440

... evaporates the souls of men in its path is acceptable because medical isotopes may be one day produced to offset the cancers, which we ourselves engendered by introducing long-lived toxic materials into our environment which diminishes our immune capabilities and assaults normal healthy life patterns.

Thus, we find ourselves considering not just a mere formality of changing milestones to comply with administrative DOE decisions to include the FFTF for tritium production, but rather we find ourselves considering profound effects of the intentions regarding nuclear proliferation as well as compounding severe and long-lived environmental health risks which stem from this project. We must all consider this proposal carefully and above all, articulate our human values and priorities. Not everything that is scientifically feasible is necessarily the right thing to do. Not everything that could provide jobs and profits is necessarily the right thing to do. These two points in no way compromise the desire to use advanced technology when the end result is beneficial. And I believe that the prominent public opinion would encourage advanced technologies, especially in the areas of waste treatment, cleanup, and containment and would support many jobs and development and prosperity for the Tri-Cities region.

Here are several points that I think we should consider in this decision making. First of all, I want to clarify whether the Final Programmatic EIS for Tritium Supply and Recycling, which I think was for weapons-use tritium, was that ever formally amended before the FFTF was included in the consideration? And if so what was the method for this amendment? Was it just a decision of the Secretary, does the public enter into some kind of formal amendment of the final programmatic statement? And I wondered if the voice of Dick Thompson, or whoever it was, that went in there to Terry Lash's office and sort of insinuated that DOE could save a lot of money if they'd take on this proposal and build up the FFTF with public money and turn it over to private enterprise for profit. Whether that was, that was like a real strong public voice but I hope that we all get just as much consideration as Mr. Thompson or whoever it was that had such influence, and I think that ...

Pat Serie:

Ms. Sims, you need to finish, please.

Lynn Sims:

002440

... that DOE kind of listened to all this, because boy, they had a chance to privatize this lemon and get somebody else to take care of the decommissioning

1 and all from it. And the Tri-Party Agreement was made to ensure that  
2 environmental impacts of past and present activities at Hanford are thoroughly  
3 investigated and that you are supposed to ensure protection of workers and  
4 public health and safety. And how can the processes such as MOX fuel  
5 fabrication, radioactive and chemical waste generation, and creation of more  
6 highly radioactive spent fuel or risks association, associated with the  
7 operation of a facility not made for using certain levels of plutonium fuel or  
8 one that does not meet current state seismic regulations be in harmony with  
9 the founding directives of the Tri-Party Agreement ...

10  
11 Pat Serie:

12 Ms. Sims, I need to ask you to finish, please.  
13

14 Lynn Sims:

15 OK. For these and other technical reasons, which we are all familiar with  
16 concerning the generation of new wastes and our inability to have either  
17 enough money or smooth scheduling or adequate technology to address the  
18 extremely serious problems that we have at the site right now. For all these  
19 reasons, I would hope the milestones are not deleted but just sort of held in  
20 standby (if that's what you have to do to meet your obligation) until  
21 hopefully a rationable, rational, and reasonable decision comes from  
22 Washington, D.C.  
23

24 Pat Serie:

Ms. Sims, please finish.

25  
26 Lynn Sims:

27 ... to delete the FFTF from consideration. Thank you.  
28  
29

30 Pat Serie:

31 Kathleen Snyder will be followed by Chuck Sarker, Daniel Belin, and Jay Olson.  
32

33 Kathleen Sneider:

34 My name is Kathleen Sneider.  
35

36 Pat Serie:

37 Sneider?  
38

39 Kathleen Sneider:

40 It's a lazy 'r' and ah, let's see. I would like to recommend that we keep to  
41 the plan. Keep to the, make sure the FFTF is not used for plutonium or any  
42 weapons production. It's been a long process getting Hanford cleaned up and  
43 we've all put a lot of time. Some people have devoted their lives to this and  
44 the Columbia Gorge is a gorgeous place. It is a beautiful place, you know,  
45 and we've got to keep it to some degree of cleanliness. There has just been,  
46 there's been way too much pollution already and we've made promises, and it's,  
47 I mean, I guess I understand how the indigenous people feel. You know, it's  
48 like we get made promises to and promises to and they get broken, and it's

1 like I have a real hard time trusting. I want to trust, I want to be part of  
2 the team, you know. I want to be part of the government and do everything  
3 right, but if promises get made and broken so much, it's really hard to do  
4 that. And my family's from the Gorge. I'm third generation and my children  
5 are fourth generation Gorge people and there's been a lot of cancer in my  
6 family, yada yada yada.  
7

8 I wrote it all into the cancer people that were dealing with the Hanford and  
9 they sent all these things out and it's really nice that we are all part of  
10 this kind of thing, you know. It makes you feel like you have family, you  
11 know, but it doesn't really do anything, you know. I mean, it maybe gives you  
12 a chance to vent a little bit, but what we need to do is, we need to clean  
13 Hanford up and I totally agree with, she already left, no, there she is,  
14 Elizabeth and Sally who was saying that we need to clean up the bedroom before  
15 we let the kids do anything else, you know. Clean it up and then let's see if  
16 there is any way we can use the facility for good parts. But you know, this  
17 part about making bombs and the bombs are degrading. That's really sad, but  
18 you know, there's still a lot of bombs. Can't they can't like take a piece  
19 from one bomb and a piece from another bomb and make a bomb out of three of  
20 them? I mean, how many bombs do we need to destroy the other guys, you know?  
21 So, my recommendation is don't let them use FFTF for any kind of production.  
22 Let's clean it up. Let's stick to the agreement and let's keep the faith of  
23 the people. Thank you.  
24

Pat Serie:

25 Thank you, Ms. Sneider. Chuck Sarker, Sparker? P-S-A-R-K-E-R. Is that,  
26 that's not you. OK.  
27

28 Unidentified person:

29 It might be me.  
30  
31

32 Pat Serie:

33 How would you pronounce your last name? No, it's someone from the Columbia  
34 Gorge Audubon Society. Chuck. He's gone. OK. Daniel Belin, please and  
35 we'll be followed by Jay Olson and Janelle Keaster, Koester.  
36

37 Daniel Belin:

38 My name is Daniel Belin and I'm a taxpayer and so I'd like to be heard. First  
39 of all, I would like to thank you guys for sitting through all this. I won't  
40 get offended if you stand up and stretch or something. As a, as a young  
41 person in the area I would like you to know that no one in this town stays up  
42 past nine o'clock and so, please, these people are serious here, so please  
43 hear them. I hope this, this I hope this isn't in vain. I hope this hasn't  
44 already been decided in a smoke-filled room with cigars and pats on the backs.  
45 Um, and all I have to say is I'd like FFTF to stop production, or not even  
46 start.  
47

002442

1 I've worked as a biologist on a boat outside of the chemical weapons plant in  
2 Umatilla and seen what's come downriver. But I'm also a history major and I  
3 think that perhaps you need to look less to the science and the numbers and  
4 look more towards your past and just learn from your mistakes. And I guess if  
5 I had one thing to say, as my public comment, it would be for just each of you  
6 sitting here in front of me right now to make a decision that you genuinely  
7 feel is a moral and right one. You know, all the rhetoric aside I would like  
8 you, each of you to make a decision that you can look at yourself when you  
9 are shaving in the morning and feel confident in it. You can tuck your  
10 children in at night and look in their eyes and know that you made the  
11 decision that was important. So please stop FFTF. Thank you.  
12

13 Pat Serie:

14 Thank you, Mr. Belin. OK. Jay Olson. Then, Jay or Joy Olson?  
15

16 Unidentified person:

17 They already left ...  
18

19 Pat Serie:

20 OK. Pete Koberstein. Pete Koberstein.  
21

22 Unidentified person:

23 Paul.  
24

25 Pat Serie:

26 Paul?  
27

28 Unidentified person:

29 He's gone.  
30

31 Pat Serie:

32 He's gone. Cyndi deBruler?  
33

34 Cyndi deBruler:

35 I took someone else's spot who had already left. I counted over 35 people  
36 that I handed comment forms to as they left the door that would have liked to  
37 have spoken and I guess that I'm just really sad tonight. Roger, when you  
38 came in I shared my concerns with you and you said that you could find a happy  
39 balance, some way to make this hearing fair. And the fact that we didn't make  
40 it through the Tri-City sign up list until 9:40 was when the last person that  
41 had signed up, way ahead of time before any member of the public ever showed  
42 up, that's when I showed up and made my concerns known, to no avail and I just  
43 want to express that this has not been a fair public hearing. You can't  
44 expect members of the public who have children at home that they have to get  
45 to school in the morning. Luckily our daughter is thirteen and can take care  
46 of herself but she has been to her share of these late night meetings. But  
47 this is ridiculous. You know it's quarter after eleven and I'm just wondering  
if there's anybody here still that would like to go on record and doesn't want

002443

to wait any longer, but would like to just run up and use my share of time with me and just get officially, this is a bean counting mission, folks, and that's why the Tri-Cities folks were here, to balance what we have to say. There wasn't one person on the talk show this morning that had a opinion that was for the restart of FFTF, so if any of you folks that are opposed to this would like to come up and quickly give your name and voice that opinion with me, please do.

Ruth Blackburn:

I sure would. My name is Ruth Blackburn and I've lived here 35 years and I'm very much opposed to what you are planning. I've been to several of these meetings and it seems like all we hear is what's going to be done, what's going to be done. All the money is going to be spent for cleanup and nothing is done. It is still the mess that worries the heck out of us. I keep wondering if, what's going to happen is going to be some great big explosion and then something will have to be done, or one of the tanks will leak into the river and something will have to be done when it is too late. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Thank you.

Natalie Greenleaf:

Yeah. I wasn't planning on speaking this evening, but as I've sat here since seven o'clock this evening and listened to all the comments, I just wanted to go on record to say that I think we need to honor the Tri-Party Agreement that was put into effect in 1989 and to stop the Fast Flux Test Facility. That's all.

Pat Serie:

Please state your name so we can get it into the record.

Natalie Greenleaf:

My name is Natalie Greenleaf and I live here in Hood River. Thank you.

Pat Serie:

Great. Let's take one more person on Cyndi's time and then go back to our list if we can, please. Go ahead, ma'am, and could you state your name so we, 'cause we don't have it on the list, I don't think.

Lucile Wyers:

I do have my name on the list. I was number forty at the bottom of the page ...

Pat Serie:

There you are. Lucile Wyers.

Lucile Wyers:

I'm Lucile Wyers and I've lived along the Columbia River here in the same spot for over 62 years continuously. And I rejoiced when some of these younger folks came in and got some stirring up, stirred up and got the Tri-Par, Tri-Party Agreement put through. I hope very much that you will keep the FFTF in it and go on with the job of cleaning up Hanford. That's, that's all I have to say.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Ms. Wyers. OK. Would Roderick Allen, oops, sir?

John Thompson:

My name is John Thompson and I live in Hood River and I am opposed to FFTF.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Is Roderick Allen here? Mr. Allen. Following him, we'll have Bonnie White, Charles Weber, and Jill Barker, please.

Roderick Allen:

No. Mr. Hughes has just been hiding his name from me. I'm kind of preaching to the choir here pretty much; appreciate everybody showing up. Been living real close to the Columbia River for 52 years with a few excursions. Ah, it's kind of a global issue we're talking about. It's not just Hanford and, ah, all of you, all gentlemen here are all gettin' paid from us'uns. That's where your wages come from.

Greg deBruler:

I'm, I'm not ...

Roderick Allen:

You fellows. Well, I've given money to your outfit, too. And I'm sure that all of you are loved ones by your family. You know your family loves you, your mother's child, your father's child; as we all are. You know, we're all, all of us, everybody on this planet is somebody's child. And in 52 short years I've realized that I get lied to a lot and deceived, particularly deceived by people who want power and they want money and they will do anything to get it. They'll lie, cheat, steal, murder, mayhem, and, ah, so I do want to go on record representing the McFadden family trust and our whole family is opposed to anything other than cleaning up this Fast Flux Test Reactor is bullshit. OK? Quit lyin' to yourselves and us 'cause ya'll gettin' your bread and butter off of our work, the people. Ah, so don't lie about it. Tell the truth, go back and get the numbers straight and if you want to insult the audience, do it at your family gathering or something, OK? I'm getting real personal here. All of ya'll folks except for Mr. deBruler, Mr. Yosa, Yerxa, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Hughes ...

Unidentified person:

Not him. He's a good guy.



1 Pat Serie:  
That's not him ...

4 Roderick Allen:

5 What do you mean? I paid Oregon state taxes too and property taxes. All of  
6 you all are responsible for performing the job that you get paid by the  
7 taxpayers to do, and we are being lied to. I have been lied to a lot and when  
8 I was a little kid I used to believe the soap that got sold to me about  
9 nuclear power. I believed it. And I think I get five minutes 'cause I'm  
10 speaking for a family trust.

11  
12 And I used to have little fantasies in my little nine and ten year old brain  
13 about having a golf ball-sized reactor on my bicycle. That's what I thought  
14 about, and then in 1958 when "Scientific American" was in black and white they  
15 showed a whole series of photographs in a monthly issue of a magazine of a  
16 radioactive plume coming down the Columbia River. And I scratched my head and  
17 I did my science fair project and went to science camp up in John Day area and  
18 I was always fascinated by things that went bang, pyrotechnic enlightenment,  
19 all that stuff.

20  
21 And then I went into the Navy in 1964. They were looking for a lot of fresh  
22 meat and I looked at the three year plan 'cause it was a kiddy cruise and they  
23 said, "Oh, you're a smart boy. Why don't you go down here to Pensacola and  
24 we'll make you a jet pilot." I looked at that contract. Six years. I didn't  
25 think I could do it. I missed my mom too much.

27 Pat Serie:

28 Mr. Allen, I do need you to ...

29  
30 Roderick Allen:

31 It will just take a moment here. I'm making up for some of the salt from  
32 upriver there. Ah, and this is a little off the point. This is kinda where  
33 you might say it is a metaphor. For lyin', cheatin', and deceivin'. Ah,  
34 1965. I was doing my job in the U.S. Navy. I got raped by a Chaplain,  
35 Southern Baptist gentleman. Less than eight hours after this rape, I turned  
36 him in to a fine, fine legal officer. Fine man. He turned me over to the  
37 control of a couple of naval intelligence guys and they took me into the back  
38 room and they fixed me up. I was disposed of for expediency. You know, keep  
39 it cheap.

40  
41 Well, ladies and gentlemen, that will happen to you again, again, and again.  
42 The people in power, the people that we are supposed to respect, and that have  
43 the money and have the control. They will rape you and lie to you and steal  
44 to you, steal from you, and they will poison your children. So, gentlemen  
45 that are getting your wages from the workin' folks, from the workin' class,  
46 get it right once, please. Stop it. You know, we've been raped enough.

One other, one other brief note is that my activism ceased in 1967, when I did a lot of activities before they ever built Trojan 'cause I knew the truth about the nuclear power energy, and the top-heavy money thing there and the Defense Department and the Department of Energy. Before the permits had even been let to permit the building of the Trojan nuclear reactor, I had a diose from the FBI because I was so active. They were taking my pictures and following me around 'cause I was opening up my big dam mouth. And that was before the permit was let and I got tired of that crap, too, so I quit and kept my big mouth shut and I just talked to my friends and sang with the choir. Well gentlemen, all of you and ladies and gentlemen and children, all of us, we are responsible and, ah, just do it right. Get it right once, you know. Don't lie to us, don't steal from us, don't rape us no more. Not for political nor financial expediency. Thank you very much.

Pat Serie:

OK. Will Bonnie White, Bonnie White ...

Unidentified person:

Gone.

Pat Serie:

Charles Weber ...

Charles Weber:

Oh, am I now or is somebody ...

002449

Pat Serie:

What is your name?

Charles Weber:

Charles Weber.

002449

Pat Serie:

You are now.

Charles Weber:

OK. I thought I was. My name is Charles Weber for the record. I am a Quaker, but I am not representing any Quaker institution other than my own heart and conscience. Ah, I am a Naval reservist but I don't believe I'm representing the Navy right now. Um, though I am from Portland, I do bring my son up here to this area to recreate and play around fairly often and we do swim in the Columbia River and sail there from time to time. I think really all I have to say tonight is that I respect everybody's opinion and I respect what you folks are doing, and I have to respectfully submit that we need to start the cleanup of Hanford. Start it, begin it, and stop FFTF and stop MOX production and use of fuels there for any other thing. The problem with, we had radiation all over the planet and I don't think we need to be moving it around. We need to be working on ways to make it less-damaging to ourselves

002449

1 and to future generations and also to the beings that can't speak for  
2 themselves here at this meeting tonight, the earth and the creatures that we  
3 share this planet with. So, thank you very much for your time and let's get  
4 to business.

5  
6 Pat Serie:

7 Thank you. Chuck Barker. Is there a Chuck Barker here?

8  
9 Unidentified person:

10 I'll speak for him.

11  
12 Pat Serie:

13 OK.

14  
15 Mike McShotzki:

16 I think I can speak for the Audubon Society because I am a member. I was  
17 married to a woman for a number of years whose uncle was involved in the  
18 Philadelphia project, and ah, not too surprising he died of cancer before she  
19 was born. Something that is kind of interesting that might blow your minds a  
20 little bit if that's possible after all we've heard, when the scientists that  
21 were working on the Philadelphia project got real close to having a bomb  
22 ready, they didn't really know whether the bomb was going to contain itself in  
23 a mushroom cloud or whether it was going to create a chain reaction that went  
24 over the entire planet. They didn't know, but they decided to take a chance  
anyway. Let's just see what the hell happens.

25 That was the birth of the nuclear industry. Get a grip. We should never have  
26 touched that little genie. We unleashed something. We'd been playing  
27 Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Russian roulette ever since. We aren't having this  
28 discussion. This is lunacy. What are we doing talking about this? The  
29 planet is on its last legs the way it looks if you look at the paper, if you  
30 get any media. And nuclear off-gassing and all of the other stuff that's  
31 going on, that's just one part of it. I think I heard that the chances of us  
32 getting cancer are something like one in three. Maybe one in three is high, I  
33 don't know, but it is way higher than my folks' ratios were. And it is not  
34 all nuclear, it's the food we're eating, it's the rest of the crap in the air,  
35 it's the stuff that we are drinking, and we know it. But this nuclear issue,  
36 God damn it. We can control this stupid thing. We don't need this stupid  
37 future farmers of titanium federation or whatever the hell it is. I'm on  
38 record for stopping this stupid thing and I speak for the Audubon Society. As  
39 far as I'm concerned, this Tri-Party Association is, if this goes through, it  
40 really should be renamed the toilet paper association and that is all I have  
41 to say.

42  
43  
44 Pat Serie:

45 What is your name, sir, please?

Mike McShotzki:  
Mike McShotzki from Boulder, Oregon.

002450

Pat Serie:  
Thank you very much. OK. Would Judy Merrill, Judy Merrill.

Unidentified person:  
Inaudible

Pat Serie:  
Anybody that's not signed up. Could you give your name, please?

002451

Sandy Brown:  
Hi guys. I'm Sandy Brown from The Dalles. I'm forty-two and I'm a water treatment operator for the city of The Dalles there, but I really wanted to be a nuclear physicist all my life. My dream was to provide the perfect energy for people, and unfortunately along the way, I've run into a whole bunch of very, very bright men at universities and they could integrate weight functions while they scrambled eggs, and I could never do that very well. But along the way they also taught me to be very, very afraid of the byproducts of this thing, and so I'm here on record to a, to say we, we've got to find another way and we can. I'm a public servant, too, and I realize that you are on your money tonight. Kind of between a hard place and an even harder place, our anger. I really wanted to come up here and just shake my fist in front of you and say, "You can't do this stupid thing," because you really know in your hearts that you're trying, you're trying to please two masters. You're trying to provide jobs and keep things going, but you are also going to kill people in the long run. You may be killing my clients. I have a town of 15,000 people I have to provide water for and the only, the only thing we can do, the only hazard that can come my way is a mistake from Hanford. We can handle anything else. We can, we can put clean water in the pipe unless we have that kind of poison, and ah, so I would like to really finally go on record as opposing any change in the cleanup plans, and please stop the Fast Flux operation.

Pat Serie:  
Thank you, sir. Thank you. OK. We have Steph Rafenson. Steph ...

Unidentified person:  
Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you ...

Pat Serie:  
Steph Rafenson, then Sandy Brown, Rich Harrell, and apparently Paige Leven. Steph Rafenson is not here?

Unidentified person:  
No. Paige Leven ...

Pat Serie:  
Nope. Sandy Brown?

Sandy Brown:  
I just spoke so ...

002451

Pat Serie:  
I'm sorry. So you are Steph. What is your name, please?

Unidentified person:  
No. My name is Patrick Muldon and his name was Sandy Brown and he already spoke so he's giving me his spot.

Pat Serie:  
OK. Got it. Thank you very much.

002452

Kathy Carlson:  
OK. I'm really glad to be here tonight, and I um, I am amazed at the amount of attention that you seem to be giving the audience. I'm very thankful for that. I have been coming to these meetings for many years and I've, I've heard, I haven't seen a lot done. I know that billions have been spent on this cleanup. It took many years just to come up with the Tri-Party Agreement and now there's, they want to change it. I, I can't remember how many years it took but it took many years and really, I know billions of dollars. I want to go on record as to say I want the Tri-Party Agreement to stay as is and I do not want the FFTF to start up. I just want to reiterate a little recent history. The safety record at Hanford really is poor. Just a few weeks ago, it was in the paper, they evacuated the whole place. That doesn't leave me feeling very safe for myself, my family. I deliver babies. For all those babies out there. They, they have all those tanks; they're leaking, they're still leaking, they haven't stopped leaking. They still don't, they still have tanks that have criticality points that they can't pump water out of. They have tanks that they don't know what's in 'em and now you want to take and make more mess. That doesn't make any sense. You don't know how to control this Pandora that's out of the box right now and you want to put out more stuff. It doesn't make any sense.

We don't live in a vacuum. Before I lived in Hood River I lived in Alaska. And in 1986, I was living in a little fishing village and we got radiated majorly from Chernobyl. If this stuff, when you let it out of the box, it affects everybody. It affects the world and we know we can't control it. I, I'm a nurse. I know that yes, radioisotopes are used. I also know that I've seen radiation therapy kill many people or destroy them so they wished they'd died. It helps some, yeah, but it doesn't help everyone. Just as chemotherapy doesn't there's ...

Pat Serie:  
Ms. Carlson, you need to finish up, please.

Kathy Carlson:

There's many alternatives out there, as far as cancer prevention is our highest goal. I just wanted to reiterate again to keep the Tri-Party Agreement. Quit wasting millions and billions of taxpayers dollars by all this red tape, "rigama roll," meetings after meetings after meetings that seem to go nowhere. You say that you've gotten one place and you've agreed to something and you are going to start working on it, and then all of a sudden OK, let's throw something else in the box and let's have some more meetings, and nothing seems to happen very quickly. I really want that to stop also. Thank you.

002452

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Ms. Carlson. OK. Steph Rafenson, Rafenson. No? Rich Harrell? Nope. Michael Honke?

Michael Honke:

My name is Michael Honke of Hanford Action Oregon. I knew I'd be here to the bitter end because I was about the last person to sign up so I think I am the bitter end.

002453

Pat Serie:

Oh, not quite.

Michael Honke:

Not quite? OK. I have been seeing this dialogue unfold for about the last six years and I've spent the three to four years in the Tri-Cities area and other parts of the Columbia Basin gathering information from downwinders and whistleblowers and scientists, some of them world-class scientists. And I, I really feel that the message that I would like to get to DOE and the contractors and all other individuals who support FFTF is that I don't think it's possible to begin an operation like this given this historical context. You've got a situation where not only do we have this immense amount of toxicity in the area, you have to look at historically at the gamesmanship of the culture. And that gamesmanship, I think, can be expressed by the uncertainties around the issues of low-dose radiation, the lack of disclosure, the history of many things that we suspected were the case, but were denied and later we found out that this was the case.

002453

There has been way too much bad faith between the industry and the counterparts in the government and the public, and so much of a blow has been dealt. Any sense of trust that in spite of even good intentions and maybe a new mission in the, in the cabinet and in the DOE, in spite of an integrity on the part of a lot of people, you just can't jump in and pick up the ball at this, well, we're the good guys now when in fact we know that historically so much has been done that clearly it's not falling under any sense of accountability.

1 I think if you look at individuals for example with the low dose argument,  
2 individuals who are in the paragon of health physics coming out and saying,  
3 "Wait a minute, we think we were wrong about this linear dose of radiation and  
4 its causality to illnesses are called Morgan." I'm recanting my findings and  
5 he suddenly been out of the loop and ostracized from the, the academies of  
6 science and the national, and international boys of radiation. If you look at  
7 any of the individuals in the so-called establishment scientists who have  
8 said, "I don't think low dose radiation is a viable argument." This idea that  
9 we can survive at these levels of radiation over time, isn't it interesting  
10 how funding gets jerked from these people and their careers are on the rocks  
11 and some of them have been harassed. I've talked with them. I've talked with  
12 people who have come out critics of the dose reconstruction found themselves  
13 in prison.  
14

15 These are allegations. I don't have proof that this is really the case. But  
16 when you have so much controversy around a way of doing business and so much  
17 disagreement of those who are curiously outside the funding loops so, so they  
18 are just alternative science and they have a different opinion whereas in the  
19 funding loop established science have an opinion that we can live with low  
20 dose. I mean, these things in our minds seem very suspicious. And then when  
21 there is so much denial of the claims of downwinders historically, and I can  
22 verify this because in the work that I've done, talking to contractors,  
23 talking to even members of DOE, but especially the contractors, this outright  
24 denial of any kind of viability to their claim when in fact I spent three  
25 years with families who literally have generations wiped out with so many  
26 different kinds of illnesses that it boggles my mind never to experience  
27 anything in my life. And so I've certainly seen enough to make me feel there  
28 is a lot to this notion that there is a culture motivated by large amounts of  
29 money, by a desire not to be accountable for mistakes, whether there is  
30 malintent or not. And so I, I think that just based on that, I'm not going to  
31 sit here and argue numbers and how viable and safe FFTF is. I think just on  
32 the basis of that legacy, no reasonable person can come to this region and say  
33 well, hey we've been hammering you in the face for 45 years and not really  
34 telling you the truth, but now we're OK.  
35

36 Pat Serie:

37 Mr. Honke, I need you to finish, please.  
38

39 Michael Honke:

40 So, you know, to wrap it up, um, the only way that we are ever going to get  
41 any meaningful dialogue is if we all really get on the same page and there is  
42 much more open disclosure and more recognition of what's really gone down and  
43 a truthful, forthright attempt to make it right; especially with downwinders  
44 and especially with cleanup. Because we've had difficulty even trusting this  
45 in the cleanup itself, let alone starting the new production facility. We  
46 don't trust the contractors and the government in the cleanup. How do you  
47 expect us to trust the ethic and the philosophy of running a new plant. Why  
are we restarting an old plant?

002453

Pat Serie:  
Mr. Honke, we need to ...

Michael Honke:

So, given that I hope that message comes clear and that might help justify in your minds why we have such strong opposition. Thanks for your time.

Pat Serie:

Thanks very much. OK. He was almost the last person. We have three people signed up still. Nancy Tracy, John Pfeffer, and Roark Smith. Nancy Tracy? Excuse me? No, and then we are going to open it up. Never too late. How about Nancy Tracy? She's coming. Good, thank you. Then John Pfeffer, Roark Smith and then we will ask, oh, and two more people on this page. I apologize.

Nancy Tracy:

I wish I could do a good job of just talking without words on a piece of paper. Ah, my eyes are blurry so I am having trouble reading those too. At any rate, when I left the Portland meeting, I went home and I think Mark Hatfield's letter put it in my mind that I questioned how did this evil technology get so far, make such inroads in doing its work, its dirty work. Ah, I went to my files and pulled out old files on Hanford and on atomic energy, nuclear power, and came up with thoughts that I have here today.

The DOE has an unenviable reputation of being proponent of nuclear power and industry, which has fed the public and government half-truths, conclusions based on insufficient data, statistics skewed to be confidence expanding, and left the public with a staggering cleanup bill. The DOE's official leniency towards specific safety defects has led to a policy of granting wholesale exceptions for common sense safety requirements.

In 1971, a top expert reactor of reactor safety, Steven Hanower, advised that Westinghouse and GE containment designs were incapable of serving as tight leak barriers against accidental releases and he was ignored because any focus on this inadequacy at that time was thought that it might possibly kill this fledgling nuclear power industry. It seems that other than selling nuclear technology around the world, the industry now seeks tax-funded government contracts as a source of lucrative product. Chernobyl, Browns Ferry, Three Mile Island, Pilgrim, all stand as lessons for mankind, but somehow it's not enough to alter the DOE's seemingly mindless support of this latest venture to expand the already horrendous killing power of our nuclear arsenal.

I say to DOE, and I'm thinking to all of you, it sounded as if we are begging tonight and I don't feel, I feel that we have reached another level. We are not a public that's begging. We are a public that is beginning to assert itself and a lot of the problems that exist today are because we haven't done that. We have relinquished power. We've relinquished authority. We've relinquished our opinions and we're stopping that and I think things are



1 different. So I'm not begging you, but I say to the DOE that it is time to  
2 cease being a proponent of a failing and yes, fraudulent industry. Our  
3 government needs to return to the role of government as a trustee for the  
4 public good. The environment, public health, and sustainable technologies and  
5 I say to General Electric and Westinghouse, the major framers of nuclear  
6 policy in the United States, and to the contractors and investors who would  
7 sell this venture as national security and jobs, we have only just begun to  
8 fight as a cohesive people from coast to coast and we are not ...  
9

10 Pat Serie:

11 Ms. Tracy, I need you to finish, please.  
12

13 Nancy Tracy:

14 We're not going, I, just a little more. We are not going to have you give our  
15 children a further legacy of increased bone cancer and leukemia. Their  
16 endocrine, immune, and reproductive systems cannot be reprogrammed, nor their  
17 brains rewired. Your secrets are now public record. For the good of this  
18 planet, the nuclear power industry needs to be mothballed, not just separate  
19 plans. It needs to be mothballed until it comes of age and can function as an  
20 asset and not a liability and be an industry that is not afraid to tell the  
21 truth about how it makes its money.  
22

23 Pat Serie:

24 Thank you, Ms. Tracy, very much. OK. John Pfeffer, then Roark Smith,  
Tad McGeer, and Kim Searcy, please.  
25

26 John Pfeffer:

27 Hello. My name is John Pfeffer. I'm a resident of Hood River, over  
28 seven years. I'm also speaking for my wife, Marie, and my little newborn son,  
29 Andrew. This proposal to delete from the Tri-Party Alliance, the FFTF: it  
30 seems to me that it is being presented as a just kind of a formality, a small  
31 move, a shift in policy, a little one, not a big deal, you know. We are going  
32 to go ahead and we still can cleanup and we can still make tritium and radio,  
33 radioisotopes for medical purposes. I don't think this is a small little  
34 shift and I think maybe that's been given to us in this light and hope it kind  
35 of just slides through. I think this is a real fundamental and monumental  
36 change of direction at Hanford and I think this is just totally wrong. It's  
37 off course ...  
38  
39

40 **END OF TAPE**  
41

42 John Pfeffer:

43 ... of was been agreed on over years of time and millions of dollars of money  
44 spent in studies done in hours upon hours of people coming for meetings and  
45 contributing, and you folks all going through these things, too. We need to  
46 stick with what all this effort has been working towards all this time. And I  
47 hope you gentlemen can see it to stay on course, stay with cleanup. Let's not  
48 go production. I honestly believe that this is just a crack in the dike,  
49

what's next, OK we start the FFTF. This thing has been presented to us by a number of people as just a marvel in engineering, a incredible machine, and it's going to lay a golden egg of medical isotopes. Oh man, that sounds great. Well, you know all machines have breakdowns, all machines have failures, all machines potentially can utterly have catastrophic failures. A machine such as this in our backyard and the biggest one, apparently, in the world or at least in the world or at least in the United States. If this thing fails, then we're in big, big dog doo. We're in tremendous trouble. This whole region is potentially devastated. I don't think it's worth the risk, you know. I don't, is this machine as perfect as you all think it is?

Pat Serie:

Mr. Pfeffer, you need to, ask you to finish, please?

John Pfeffer:

Also, is this gonna be kind of the ticket to starting something even bigger, you know you make one change in the Tri-Party Alliance, well, why not a couple more. How about if we start bringing in waste and maybe Hanford can become the world's nuclear meat reprocessing and disposal center. Hey, you know this could be tremendous for the local economy. I don't think the people want this here. I think people want Hanford to be cleaned up, I think people want the Tri-Party Alliance or Agreement to be held to. Especially this, don't, let's not make this seemingly little shift which really is a huge leap in policy here.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Pfeffer. You need to stop.

John Pfeffer:

May, may I just make one more comment, please? The Oregonian, is our local, regional, paper, well state paper, the biggest paper in Oregon. And there's an article on January 23rd, in fact there is three articles; I'm not going to go into this in any great detail, but basically it sums up that the cleanup effort is 42 million dollars extra is being sought for the cleanup effort of the tanks for next year. And then it goes on to say that of the 308 million dollars allocated for the tank farms this year, that is in fact, 39 million dollars short of what Hanford wanted to meet its legal cleanup obligations. Well, that comes to a total of 81 million dollars short between what's short this year and what's needed next year just for the tanks themselves. And then another place in this article is talking about Tank SY-101 which is mysteriously rising three inches and burping up all kinds of stuff and it says it the number one concern of all of Hanford. And we heard that we don't have enough money for the cleanup and now we're talking about doing this incredibly expensive FFTF startup and production. It doesn't make sense.

Pat Serie:

Mr. Pfeffer, I must ask you to end, please.

002455

1 John Pfeffer:  
Can, can I just add one more moment?

4 Pat Serie:  
5 No, no.

7 John Pfeffer:  
8 I'm representing my wife and my son.

002455

10 Pat Serie:  
11 And the baby?

13 John Pfeffer:  
14 OK. Thank you. I waited a long time for this so. You know, looking at the  
15 legacy of Hanford, the third portion of this article in the paper that I  
16 saved, it talks about Under Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz promised  
17 five million dollars to begin a health study of an estimated 14,000 people who  
18 were exposed as children to radioactive releases of the Hanford Nuclear  
19 Reservation and those releases are iodine-131. OK, if 14,000 children were  
20 exposed already and also it states that the Pacific Northwest was blanketed in  
21 739,000 curies of radioactive iodine during 1944 till 1972. That doesn't even  
22 include what went down the river.

002455

24 Pat Serie:  
25 Mr. Pfeffer, you need to end, please.

002455

27 John Pfeffer:  
28 OK. I think the Northwest has paid its price. I don't think we should have  
29 to take more chances.

31 Historically, you know, everybody in the nation, every area in the nation, has  
32 paid its price, you know, for national defense and security and what not. I  
33 think the Northwest has paid its price, I think it's time to stick with  
34 cleanup. Let's go with the TPA. Let's keep the trust that the public built.  
35 You built a lot of good will with the TPA. You do this, it's gonna destroy a  
36 lot of good will and it's not going to be replaced easily. Thank you very  
37 much.

39 Pat Serie:  
40 Thank you, Mr. Pfeffer. Roark Smith, Mr. Smith. After Mr. Smith will be  
41 Tad McGeer, Kim Searcy, please.

43 Roark Smith:  
44 My name is Roark Smith. I live in Hood River. I am a single parent with a  
45 kid at home I gotta get to school tomorrow. I'm still here because my mind  
46 says it is important and my heart hopes it matters.

002456

1 I come here to listen to ideas, I like to listen to everything. I'm not a  
2 local's only guy, and I don't think any point of view should be censored, but  
3 I don't like stacking the deck either.

4  
5 I heard tonight the panel say that we have three choices on the milestones:  
6 1) to ignore them; 2) to postpone them; or 3) to remove them. Mr. Hughes says  
7 that it's a no brainer because we can't do any of them except run over them.  
8 It doesn't seem like a no brainer to me; it makes me wonder. I don't see that  
9 your failure to do your duty in managing the place properly gives you any  
10 excuse to change what you want to do with it. I want to go on record to say  
11 that I think the TPA milestones should be retained. I spent six years on  
12 nuclear submarines as a Radiation Health Tech. Then I was further employed  
13 Liquid Sodium Sulphur Batteries as a technician. So I have some experience  
14 with some liquid sodium. I don't think the FFTF, the Fast Flux Test Facility,  
15 should be started up again. Sodium technology in a reactor has never worked  
16 well. You can maybe do it in a lab situation, you can't do it production.  
17 The stuff is dangerous and really hard to work with.

18  
19 Also, the reactor, as has been mentioned, isn't meant for the, it's not the  
20 right piece of equipment for these jobs. Nuclear isotopes are very important.  
21 I acknowledge the fact there is a requirement for defense, but the FFTF is not  
22 the piece of equipment to do it. Among other things, the FMEF would have to  
23 be contaminated. I know it's a nice shiny piece of equipment you guys have  
24 never used, but we shouldn't mess it up. But mostly as the previous speaker  
25 mentioned, you guys have never degenerated any trust with the public. You  
26 continuously put off and rip off all the programs. I want you to do what you  
27 said you're going to do in some kind of time period when you're going to do it  
28 with a reasonable budget. That's what I'm here to ask. I would really like  
29 to see Hanford set the example of how to clean up a mess. We've had a lot of  
30 examples on how to make a bomb when we need it during a war. I don't make a  
31 lot of money, but I'd really like to see Hanford be an example of how you  
32 clean a place up. I think TeDeck and all the rest of the people will find  
33 there's more money in making the world a better place than makin' it worse.

34  
35 Pat Serie:

36 Thank you, Mr. Smith. Tad McGeer and then Kim Searcy.

37  
38 Tad McGeer:

39 I don't think I have an ax to grind, but I do have some questions to ask. And  
40 that's really what I want to do, direct questions to you I think which is: As  
41 I understand it, these milestones are not going to be met. That's correct and  
42 a couple of years ago DOE made the decision which ensured that they would not  
43 be met, is that more or less correct?

44  
45 Ernie Hughes:

46 When it was put at standby, the work addressing many of those milestones was  
47 stopped.

002457

1 Tad McGeer:

2 So, to put that another way, DOE unilaterally took a decision to violate the  
3 agreement that it had made. 002457

4  
5 Ernie Hughes:

6 DOE, the Secretary, took the facility, which is the existing federal facility,  
7 and put it in standby to see if there was a later mission where they wouldn't  
8 need to buy a new one. And we initiated the change process in the TPA, which  
9 is a part of the TPA, for situations like this and other situations when you  
10 have to have a change.

11  
12 Tad McGeer:

13 I understand, but really the approach was the one of saying, well, it's  
14 easiest to get forgiveness than permission. I mean the decision was made,  
15 we're gonna violate the TPA and then we're gonna ask for it to be changed  
16 knowing that whether it's changed or not it's gonna be violated. Is that  
17 pretty much accurate? 002457

18  
19 Ernie Hughes:

20 That's your statement.

21  
22 Pat Serie:

23 Please go on.

24  
25 Tad McGeer:

26 I'll take that as a yes. I'm going to finish up by asking what's the  
27 enforcement mechanism? I mean, as it stands, the agreement has been violated  
28 and if the results of this process is that the milestones are not changed,  
29 which for the record, I'm in favor of. I do not think they should be changed.  
30 What is the enforcement process? I mean, then what happens? That is my  
31 question. 002457

32  
33 Pat Serie:

34 Roger, would you want to address that quickly in terms of the enforcement  
35 process?

36  
37 Roger Stanley:

38 There's basically two different types of enforceable commitments in the  
39 Tri-Party Agreement. Both of them relate to hazardous waste law. One of them  
40 to the Federal Super Fund Statute. There are a lot of TPA milestones that are  
41 basically based in the Federal Super Fund Statute and the enforcement trail  
42 for those typically, eventually leads up to the Administrator of the EPA.  
43 There are other milestones that are based in what is called the Federal RCRA  
44 Law, which the Federal Hazardous Waste Management Law and the State of  
45 Washington has a delegated Hazardous Waste Management Program. That  
46 enforcement trail leads up to the Director of the Department of Ecology. So  
47 those are the two basic means to enforce.

002457

1 Tad McGeer:

3 Since some time ago, the decision was taken to ensure these milestones would  
4 not be met, should that enforcement process not have started at that point?  
5 Or do we have to wait until, well say, the 30th of April this year when the  
6 first milestones are set and a legal process starts?

7 Roger Stanley:

8 In my understanding is that the Secretary had the authority to place FFTF in  
9 standby and then the Department of Energy came to us with a request for  
10 change, which is what we are trying to deal with now.

11 Tad McGeer:

12 If that's the case, if the Secretary of Energy has the authority, unilateral  
13 authority, to make the decision to violate the agreement, then what does the  
14 agreement mean? That's my question. What is the value of this process if it  
15 results in a document or enforces an existing document which cannot be  
16 enforced?  
17

002457

18 Roger Stanley:

19 Well, it can be enforced, you know, depending of the type of milestone.  
20

21 Greg deBruler:

22 I want to say something here. You asked a really good question, 4-31 of '98,  
23 if they do not meet that milestone; one of those agencies can take an  
24 enforcement action and I can't remember if it's CERCLA or RCRA, they can take  
25 an enforcement action, but, as somebody so eloquently said, her name was  
26 Lynn Stembbridge was great, she said, "You know what they're doing, they're  
27 doing a pre-emptive strike of the Tri-Party Agreement because they don't have  
28 enough," she didn't say this exactly, I'll put my words in it, balls, "to  
29 stand up and say no, we're gonna hold you accountable." And like I said  
30 before, the intent of the Tri-Party Agreement was to hold DOE accountable;  
31 that's why it was signed. That's why the Secretary of Energy came in and  
32 signed the agreement because they had never been held accountable. What  
33 Ecology is preparing to do is to do a wholesale slaughter. It's the first  
34 step of undoing; if you let this go, it's gone. They're going to ask you for  
35 more, they're going to ask you for more, and they're going to ask you for  
36 more.  
37

002389

38 Ecology does have the ability to say, flat out, Department of Energy, you  
39 asked us to put this FFTF reactor in the Tri-Party Agreement. We're going to  
40 hold you accountable, we don't care what you say, Secretary of Energy, as she  
41 goes out the door and shuts the door in everybody else's face. They have that  
42 right, but here is the other point. You notice that the Environmental  
43 Protection Agency is not here and they are not here because it's a political  
44 decision not to get in the face of the Department of Energy. And that's the  
45 big problem.  
46  
47

Pat Serie:

Wait, wait, wait. We need to go on to our next person, who is the last person signed up. I believe we have a few other people, people are willing to stay around and talk. Kim left ... Kim Searcy left. Was there anyone else who wanted to get a public comment on the record that has not spoken yet? That woman in the back row, I believe has not yet spoken. Do you want to come on up? Can you state your name, please?

Melissa Finn:

My name is Melissa Finn and I live in Hood River. And I just actually had a question for Mr. Hughes. I understand this is the last in a series of four meetings where the public has come to give comment and I know that the government should be for the people. And my question is, from all the comments that you have received so far, do you have a prediction on what the DOE will decide as far as this proposal that has been made to reach the Tri-Parties Agreement?

Ernie Hughes:

No, I certainly don't have any prediction. After we get all the comments in from all four meetings, and we are sorting them out now, the transcripts have been made, and will be made from this meeting tonight, then DOE will meet with Ecology and with EPA and we'll sit down, and with the comments make a decision on how to go forward on the TPA Change Request.

Melissa Finn:

Do you think the decision will be based on the public input you have gotten? Say what, you know what the public, the majority of the public has stood behind this idea. Do you think the DOE will stand behind that?

Ernie Hughes:

Certainly the public comments will be taken into consideration but that will not change the fact that the facility has been placed in standby by the Secretary of Energy, and will remain in standby until the Secretary of Energy decides to either shut it down or go forward with an EIS. So the Tri-Parties will have to deal with that issue as well as with all the comments that are made in any decision.

Melissa Finn:

OK. And for the record, I would like to say that I am opposed to breaching the Tri-Party Agreement and thank you for coming out tonight.

Pat Serie:

Thank you. Now, is there anyone else who has not yet gone on record that would like to make comment?

Unidentified person:

I would just like a question ...

002458

002458

002458

Pat Serie:

Well, we're doing formal public comments still so we get everything captured.  
Is there anyone who would like to do that?

Paige Leven:

I'll be really quick. If we're counting the pros and cons, count one more person that is against changing the Tri-Party Agreement and against this restart of FFTF. Thank you.

002391

Pat Serie:

Thank you. Who else? Sir. And can you state your name, please?

Andy von Flotow:

I'm Andy von Flotow

002459

Pat Serie:

Wait. You have to wait till you get up to the mic so it gets on the recorder.

Andy von Flotow:

If you're just doing bean counting, you can count one more bean, yeah. I think that you guys are gutless turkeys if you don't take Hazel O'Leary or her replacement and hang her to dry for unilaterally just ignoring the agreement those folks signed. It's your job to enforce it.

002459

Pat Serie:

I'm sorry. What was your name, please?

Andy von Flotow:

Andy von Flotow.

002459

Paige Knight:

And what do you believe, 'cause they have to have those words.

002435

Andy von Flotow:

Oh, you haven't figured it out.

002459

Paige Knight:

No, it's apparently not enough, so

002435

Andy von Flotow:

Would you state them for me then I'll repeat what are the magic words.

002459

Unidentified persons:

No FFTF.

Andy von Flotow:

Don't change the TPA.

002459



1 Paige Knight:  
2 ... for the FFTF.

002435

3  
4 Andy von Flotow:  
5 ... FFTF.

002459

6  
7 Paige Knight:  
8 Got it, very good.

002435

9  
10 Andy von Flotow:  
11 Whoever the idiot from EPA that did not show up tonight, that guy needs to be  
12 strung up, too.

002459

13  
14 Unidentified person:  
15 He hasn't shown up at any of them.

16  
17 Pat Serie:  
18 Sir, next, and please state your name.

19  
20 Matt Cosmoto:  
21 Matt Cosmoto from Hood River. If that is all Andy had to say, you guys got  
22 off really easy. Yes, I would also like to state that I oppose removing the  
23 milestones from the Tri-Party Agreement. I lived in Richland for 20 years; I  
24 understand the political process and the economic process there. I saw FFTF  
go up from the hole in the ground on up and I have yet to hear a convincing  
argument that there is a mission for this thing. It just looks like another  
boondoggle and I've seen a lot of them. Thank you.

002460

27  
28  
29 Pat Serie:  
30 Thank you, sir. This gentleman, Paige, and then Greg.

31  
32 Paige Knight:  
33 No, Greg gets to go before me. He's local.

002435

34  
35 Paul McAdams:  
36 I would just like to ask a question. What is the worst-case ...

002461

37  
38 Pat Serie:  
39 Can you state your name, please?

40  
41 Paul McAdams:  
42 Paul McAdams. What is the worst-case scenario on an accident up there if it  
43 was running at full scale and it had an explosion? What would be the fallout  
44 or whatever the ...

002461

45  
46 Ernie Hughes:  
47 In the simplest of terms the worst-case scenario if there was a fuel failure,  
48 the reactor system contains all of the material inside the primary system. To

1 go on with your scenario, an explosion which is a highly unlikely occurrence  
2 in that type of reactor, even an explosion would be contained within the  
3 containment building itself. So there would be no threat to the public.

4  
5 Paul McAdams:  
6 You're guaranteed it would.

002461

7  
8 Ernie Hughes:  
9 That is what all the studies show and the studies are available to the public.  
10 Let me say that we did a series of studies this summer and they are on the  
11 internet and all the information and all the data from those studies is  
12 available to the public.

13  
14 Paul McAdams:  
15 Now, like I said, I don't believe that because I had a brother-in-law that  
16 worked on nuclear plants and you should see what they did. Some of the plants  
17 they worked in, you know, they were iron workers and they couldn't even  
18 operate the thing. So you know, it just, the DOE, I mean, you know, I, I just  
19 don't believe it, you know, I mean it's, Dirk, comment on that would you, I  
20 mean.

002461

21  
22 Dirk Dunning:  
23 I wish I could, meaningfully. It has been a long week and a half and I'm  
24 afraid I can't even hardly remember my name.

002388

25  
26 Pat Serie:  
27 Dirk Dunning.

28  
29 Dirk Dunning:  
30 Yes, that's true.

002388

31  
32 Pat Serie:  
33 It's the least that I can do.

34  
35 Dirk Dunning:  
36 One of the problems in looking at the analysis is that it's hard to determine  
37 exactly what the answer is. Yeah, there's a lot of theories about what  
38 happens but where the design is for the Fast Flux Test Facility is  
39 considerably beyond where a lot of reactors have gone before. And  
40 particularly for the proposal that has been made, it's beyond anything the  
41 Fast Flux Test Facility has ever done. So there is a fair amount of  
42 uncertainty. I know there are things that give us great pause. Um, there  
43 have been various proposals about what conditions a reactor might be run in.  
44 Some of them have considered using metallic fuel, some have considered using  
45 very high enrichment plutonium fuel. The accidents are different for each.  
46 In the case of the metal fuel, I know that from U.S. Department of Energy and  
47 their Headquarter folks when they ask the question, they're concerned that the  
48 reactor might have to be run at reduced power levels for the first few days.

002388

1 because the temperature of the fuel might be high enough that the centerline  
2 of the fuel would be molten during operations. That gets into ranges that I  
3 am not comfortable with.

4  
5 Pat Serie:

6 Mr. McAdams, do you a comment on the changes to the TPA milestones while you  
7 are up?

8  
9 Paul McAdams:

10 I do not want them to change the TPA.

002461

11  
12 Pat Serie:

13 OK. Thank you. All right. I think we have Greg and then Paige.

002389

14  
15 Greg deBruler:

16 I am going to be a citizen; I'm not gonna be doing anything at Hanford and I'm  
17 going to pretend I just walked in this room. But I remembered that they  
18 signed something back in 1989. My name is Greg deBruler and I lived in the  
19 Gorge since 1984. What I find very disheartening is that we've had two  
20 commitments and two promises that we are going to clean up our mess. We are  
21 going to have no more production missions at Hanford and that in 30 years this  
22 site will be cleaned. It's 1998 now. The Department of Energy has spent  
23 9.4 billion dollars on Hanford and they've had a lousy, lousy success in  
24 cleaning it up. The stories still keep going on, that we know what's best for  
25 you. Well, you don't. This is the first time I have been at a Hanford  
26 meeting where I felt threatened and I don't feel comfortable, I'm telling you  
27 the truth right now. Because there was some people in the Tri-Cities that  
28 came here that had other intentions. And I want to put it on the record that  
29 there have been people eliminated, pushed out, squeezed, and pressured. And  
30 I'm not saying this because I'm afraid, but I am saying this because I'm  
31 concerned, because what I've seen here is that we are allowing a small few to  
32 try to out-vocal the majority. And as Roger and I talked one time he said, we  
33 said, how many people do you think we really support this mission. If you put  
34 this to a vote of the American public, 99.9% would say, no way. This  
35 gentleman over here asked a very important question, and the question was, how  
36 is this, how are you going to take all this information and make your final  
37 decision. He asked me that and I said, well, let's see. Ecology is going to  
38 sit over here and they are going go, well, let's see, we have all these  
39 comments and everybody says no, no, no, no, no, and ten said yes, and no, no,  
40 no, no, no. OK, well, I guess we better not do somethin'. EPA goes, hell  
41 well, I don't want this, I didn't want FFTF in the first place, so let's just  
42 get rid of it. So EPA is not here, so they can't hear your comments, but  
43 they'll be in this room supposedly looking at the comments. I have given  
44 public comments since 1988 and I never, ever have once had a written response  
45 to any of my questions I have ever asked. So do you think I can sit here and  
46 honestly believe that we're going to come out of here with this rosy picture  
47 where the Tri-Party Agencies are going to turn around to the American public  
and say hey, we're gonna hold them to it. We're gonna fine 'em for every day

1 that they violate the Tri-Party Agreement. It's not going to happen and I'll  
2 bet you it doesn't happen. So, I'm upset, I am dismayed that the Department  
3 of Ecology didn't force EPA to take that seat there and become part of this  
4 process. Now they aren't. So this man asked me a question, how are they  
5 going to make the decision. Well, Ecology says yes, no, no, no, yes, yes,  
6 yes, and they finally said, no, we're not going to change it. EPA who isn't  
7 here, they could say nothing and DOE goes, well, um, we want it.

8  
9 Pat Serie:

10 Since you are a citizen, you are out of time.

11  
12 Greg deBruler:

13 So tell me how is this decision going to be made if Ecology says, we aren't  
14 going to go away from it, we've got the taxpayers of the American public that  
15 we are answering to, we ain't changing it. We are going to force them right  
16 to the hilt, we're going to fine ya, and get on with cleanup. DOE's not going  
17 to say, well gee, um, we agree with ya.

18  
19 Pat Serie:

20 Greg, as a citizen you are out of time.

21  
22 Greg deBruler:

23 Fine then, I am out of time. How is that going to work? Explain to me how  
24 you are going to resolve this issue when you know what DOE wants; they come up  
25 here and gave us a sales pitch. And EPA's not playing because it's too  
26 political. I want to know how it's going to be a fair process. And I'll tell  
27 you what, if you guys do not listen to the public, there will be hell to pay.  
28 Because these people aren't going to sit back anymore, they are tired of it.  
29 I was on the radio this mornin'. This is 14,000 people listening in the Gorge  
30 and you know what the announcer said to me? He said, Greg, look it, I  
31 disagreed with it, but I'm going to ask the American public, on the radio this  
32 morning, a 45 minute radio show, he said is there anybody listening in the  
33 audience? There's about 28,000, but there's those listening that's about  
34 14,000, prime-time morning talk show, everybody listens to what's going on in  
35 the Gorge. There wasn't one person that called. So I'm going to represent  
36 those people. There are 14,000 people that are coming here to tell you, the  
37 Department of Energy and the Tri-Party Agencies, do not touch the Tri-Party  
38 Agreement and enforce it to the hilt and get on with cleanup. Thank you.

39  
40 Pat Serie:

41 Thank you, Greg. This gentleman is, ah, who hasn't spoken would like to.  
42 State your name, please.

43  
44 Dennis Keefer:

45 Uh, Dennis Keefer of Hood River. I don't pay taxes. This is obviously why.  
46 Uh, I moved up here about seven years ago. It took a couple of years to  
47 figure out I moved up here. It felt, to heal this place. No one's ever  
48 talked about the heart of the Gorge. You've got some bad karma over there,

1 very bad karma. Years, thousands of years of karma. You've got to be fucking  
2 nuts if you're going to try to start something up. Get real. Do you have a  
3 sanity test to get on this board? Obviously not. I'd like to see a financial  
4 portfolio because that's the only reason I could think of even changing this,  
5 whatever the magic words are. What are they?  
6

7 Unidentified person:

8 Oh, I take, er, ah, or honor the Tri-Party Agreement. Leave the milestone in.  
9

10 Dennis Keefer:

11 The only thing that these guys are doing is taking notes when everything they  
12 marked out. 002462

13 Unidentified person:

14 But they don't know what we're doing. I'll tell you what we're doing.  
15

16 Pat Serie:

17 Please go on, sir.  
18

19 Dennis Keefer:

20 It is a joke. It is like, if you was in a poker hand, you'd be, we'd be out  
21 dead shot. Because the cards are already stacked against us. You yourself  
22 said, it's a long-term effect of you wouldn't get none. That's a low blow to  
23 the heart to bring in the medical stuff. The very beginning of the meeting  
24 you said the medical advice would be a long-term; short-term is military.  
25 Short-term is military, long-term is medical. They've taken satellite  
26 pictures of Columbia Gorge and it glows. Where do you live at?  
27

28 Ernie Hughes:

29 Make your comment. I'm not going to engage in this.  
30

31 Pat Serie:

32 Please continue, sir.  
33

34 Dennis Keefer:

35 Uh, what are the magic words?  
36

37 Paige Knight:

38 Oh, honor the TPA, leave the milestones in. 002435

39 Dennis Keefer:

40 Honor the TPA, leave the milestones in. Make your remark. 002462

41 Ernie Hughes:

42 You're on the record.  
43

44 Dennis Keefer:

45 Oh, good. 002462

Paige Knight:

002435

Thank you very much. I'm going to, I'm going to finish my comment duty for the minute to the diehards who are still here. And I just, one of the things that I really know is, ah people have asked me, do you think we have any chance? And I think we do have a chance, I think, I sort of think right now. I'm going to lay bets that the, ah that the DOE we will say, we're going to go ahead with the TPA--I mean with the FFTF and we're going to spend millions of dollars doing an EIS and waste a little more time and build up the lobbies to go back to D.C., the people with the money, the people who, ah you know, have all the power. What? And campaign contributions, yes, and right, and then they'll throw a few Presidential affairs on the side. But one of the things I want you all to realize, who are still here, is that is that we are part of a beginning ground swell. This is just the beginning, we've got other big battles connected to this coming down. And we have to have a ground swell in this region. We are the leaders in the country in terms of where we're going with some of our action. And you need to continue to be active and keep the people, your friends who are here tonight, active and get really going. We need the ground swell to grow and grow. We have the power, I believe that. We may not stop it first time around, but we will stop it. I really believe it.

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Paige. And thank you all of you that have stayed. I think we might be done with all the ...

Bill Mead:

Inaudible

002428

Pat Serie:

OK.

Bill Mead:

Just about, this is really fast. All right. I'm Bill Mead, I know you guys love this. OK, ah, this is to Department of Ecology. It seems to me that in my research, I remember reading something about tank waste and your administrator went after the Department of Energy like a junk yard dog. Said that they were gonna really rip a new hind end if they didn't stay within the, ah, TPA agreements. OK, now, that was a tank waste. Maybe there is a little bit of difference here, but you know, it's sort of like, oh, we don't have, we don't want this law, ah, to be enforced because it's inconvenient. That's sort of like having the State of Oregon say, well, yeah, car theft is against the law, but we don't want to enforce that one. However, we're gonna really watch those guys after they steal your car and make sure they don't speed. OK. You don't stop enforcing the law because you don't think that you can. You give a good try.

002428

Pat Serie:

Thank you, Mr. Mead. You promised extreme brevity.

1 Bill Mead:

2 OK. And then I should say, Oregon Department of Energy, if they were in your  
3 spot and they were doing Department of Ecology's work, they'd be after those  
4 folks. And they would have the enforcement. They'd give it a shot. The  
5 modified FFTF reactor will be hazardous. Do not modify the TPA regarding any  
6 of the FFTF milestones.  
7

8 Pat Serie:

9 Cindi, do you have one very brief last comment before we close?  
10

11 Cindi Laws:

12 Yes, Pat. This actually to you. There's, ah ah, been some videotaping going  
13 on tonight and I know that this video camera has been done for public access.  
14 And I'm curious as to what the purpose of your videotape is, who you are,  
15 where you're from, and what the purpose of your videotape is.  
16

17 Unidentified person:

18 I'm with Eugene Energy. I'm from Eugene and I'm stuck here filming it for a  
19 TV show that we're doing, and with a informative news magazine and just wanted  
20 some information to bring to the group in Eugene.  
21

22 Pat Serie:

23 OK. Thank you, sir. All right. Thank you all for staying so long. I think,  
24 oh, Dirk, I'm sorry. Dirk wants to make one last comment.

Dirk Dunning:

27 Mine's real short.  
28

29 Pat Serie:

30 Please listen for one more second.  
31

32 Dirk Dunning:

33 Mine's real short. Um, at the time we started, I tried to do a rough  
34 headcount and there was something over 250 people here. I find it incredible  
35 that after midnight there was still over 50 people here. I, sometimes people  
36 wonder why I do what I do. 'Cause it doesn't pay a lot and there's a lot of  
37 long hours and a lot of hard work. But I think in hearing a lot of what of  
38 people had to say tonight, not about the specific issue, but about how much  
39 you care. That's why I'm here. Thank you.  
40

41 Pat Serie:

42 You're right. They're all right. Thanks everyone. Goodnight.

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Paige Leven	3036 Woodland Park Seattle WA
Ken Dobbin	1843 Blue Heron West Richland WA
Harold L. Anderson	1106 Wilson St., Richland, WA
David Swenberg NMRC	200210 E 73rd, Kennewick, WA
Mike Watter	55 Judwin #122 Richland WA
Keith Smith	2829 W Grand Road Kennewick, WA 98536
Derek Jones	1106 W. 29th Ave Kennewick, WA
GARY TRAYAR	614 COTTONWOOD RICHLAND, WA
CINDI LANS	6002 S. STEVENS ST Seattle 98116
Elizabeth See	P.O. Box 1592 White Salmon WA 98672
Molly See	
Penny White/Bob Morris	PO BOX 1183 White Salmon WA 98672
W.P. MEAD	PO Box 724 Portland OR 97207-0724



[illegible]

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Caroline POPE	PO Box 444 Trout Lake, WA 98650
Lynn and Don ROBERGE	3991 STEAK RD, HOOD RIVER 97031
Dennis White	367 Oakridge Rd White Salmon WA 98672
Robert Kwasi L Diehl	P.O. Box 601 Hood River, OR 97031
John Marius	P.O. Box 418 Trout lake, wa 98650
Annmarie Shyman	P.O. Box 418 Trout Lake, WA 98650
Carmen Johnson	PO Box 444 Trout Lake WA 98650
Jeff Volk	P.O. Box 385 TL, WA 98650
Bonnie White	367 Oakridge Rd White Salmon, WA 98672
Gill Baker	P.O.B. 572 Mosier, OR 97040
Hans R. Schnepel	HANS R. SCHNEPEL 767 PARSONS RD. HOOD RIVER, OR
Steph Ranson	PO Box 278 White Salmon wa 98672
Rick Aarnel	717 Eugene ST Hood River or 97031

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Evlyn E. Isaacson	2106 Lee Blvd Richland, WA
Louise Phipps	1334 Sacramento Richland, WA 99352
Son Willett	2006 west 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave Kennewick WA 99336
Georgia Talbot	2355 Easton Richland WA 99352
Gene Regel	7200 midvale Rd. Yakima, WA 98908
Bob Schenter	2240 DRIVISON RCHLAND WA 99352
Bob Talker	2355 Easton Richland, Washington
Sonja Anderson	1618 W. 8 <sup>th</sup> Pl Kennewick WA 99336
Linda Burk	9009 W. Grand Ronde Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336
Brenda Heyman	417 NW Loop Rd. White Salmon, WA 98672
Columbia River Warden	P.O. Box 182
Nanci Barkun	Hood River, OR 97031
Steve White	P.O. Box 637
Columbia River United	White Salmon, WA 98672

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Bill Kline	PO 1553 Hood River, OR 97031
Mary Preston	77 Pearce Rd White Salmon WA 98672
Susan K. Louene	15 Lake Rd. White Salmon WA
Karen Kemper	231 Cooper Ave Underwood, WA 98651
Jim Baldwin	3364 SE 8 <sup>th</sup> Portland OR
Marybeth Condon	380 Ilsa Way Goldendale WA 98620
Tim Young	380 Ilsa Way Goldendale WA 98620
Robert Seborer	424 DOUGLAS FIRE Goldendale WA
DANIEL LICHTENWALD	PO BOX 1200 GOLDENDALE, WA 98620
Bret Rusty Kinsley	420 E. 11 <sup>th</sup> The Dalles, OR 97058
Dorothy Rogers	<del>315</del> 1632 Montana. The Dalles OR 97058
BRO Yazzolino	6451 SE Morrison CE Portland, OR 97215
Marilyn Gjo	1903 SW Vista PL Pendleton, OR 97801

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Sally A. Newell	142 Duna Rd Underwood, WA 98651
Catherine Zenger	PO Box 1067 White Salmon WA 98672
Lynn Sims	3959 NE 42 Portland OR 97213
Jane Oakley	PO Box 1326 Hood River, WA 98620
<del>George Brun</del>	7275 SE CLACKAMAS RD. MULTIPLI, OR 97267
chief Johnny Jackson	PO Box 190 98651 Underwood, WA
Chuck H. Parker	P.O. Box 872 Mosier, OR 97040
Stuart Johnston	P.O. Box 505 Lyle WA 98635-0505
Janelle Koester	PO BOX 1175 Hood River, OR 97031
Cy Just	5710 HILLING PARDALE OR 97041
Joy Olson	PO BOX 195 Husum WA 98623
Kent Olson	PO. BOX 196 Husum WA 98623
Robbie Moller	POB 1113, Hood River

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
AL Tongwell	838 Krupp Ct, H.R.
Susan Barber	1675 Oak #12 HR
Melita Roseford	P.O. Box 1457 Hosscum, WA 98623
Terry Gehay	P.O. Box 151 Mosier, OR 97040
Stephen Datwoff	94 Montello Hood River, OR 97031
Lisa Orsick	2373 May St Hood River OR 97031
Kurt Cordie	2373 May St Hood River OR 97031
Patricia Cordie	2373 - May St - Hood River, OR 97031
Lisa Gleason	4361 Portland Dr H.R.
Sue Hartford	3580 Thomsen Rd Hood River
Pat Hamant	3580 Thomsen RD H.R.
Amy Bustelow	PO Box 444 Trout Lake, WA 98650
Heather Patti	PO Box 385 Trout Lake, WA 98650

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Alison Hodges	5520 Skyline Dr Hood River OR 97031
Bob Hodges	5520 Skyline Dr Hood River OR 97031
KAREN L. WOODHURST	<del>2031 SE</del> PO Box 203 Hood River OR 97031
Keith + Karen, Keeley + Kory Harding	5947 Miller Rd. Mount Hood, OR 97041
JOHN McSHERZY	BOX 734 STEVENSON WA 98648
VALERIE KELLY	PO Box 802 White Salmon WA 98672
JOHN THOMSEN	1203 State St Hood River, OR 97031
Deborah Syler	PO Box 522 White Salmon WA
James Vopper	P.O. Box 149 Nusum, Wa 98623
Ronita Vopper	P.O. Box 386 White Salmon Wa. 98672
NANCY LOU TRACY	7310 SW Pine St. Tigard OR 97223
John G. Pfeffer, DVM	255 country club Rd Hood River, OR 97031
ROGER SMITH	2149 CASCADE #106A H.R. 97031

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Peter Frothingham <del>HRRC</del> HRVRC	PO Box 408 Adell.
Linda Keir	PO Box 1111 Hood River, OR
P. Koberstein CASCADIA TIMES	25-6 NW 23RD PL #406 PORTLAND 97210
John Thompson	1718 AVALON PL HR
Kym & Mark Zamiller	1421 Sherman HR
Jillian Clark	PO Box 52 Hood River, OR 97031
Roderick Allen	P.O. Box 514 W.S. WA 98672
Ellen Barbour	717 Eugene N.R., OR 97031
Dan Belin	P.O. Box 382 Paradale, OR 97041
Michael Honke Hanford Action of Oregon	1006 NE Linden Ave Gresham OR 97030
Laurie Berkowitz	PO Box 1904 White Salmon, WA 98672
Nilsa Zeman	1819 W. Cascade Hood River OR 97031



**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Sign-In Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998**

Name and Organization	Address
Chandra Radiance	3226 Dee Hwy Hood River, OR 97031
NINA POCHNA	OSPREY HILL SANCTUARY 3910 PARLOW RD, HR OR 97031
Janet Winkler + Rod	786 HighLine Rd Hood River OR 97031
Mary John	1145 Gable Ln PO Box 558 Miser, OR 97040
Noah Patton	1705 SW 10th St Spokane WA 99204
Dave Russell	416 Cascade H.R. OR 97031
Julie Thielges	112 Montello Ave. Hood River, OR 97031
Carla Jeffers	1321 E-11 T.D. OR 97058
Tad McGEER	11492 Cook Underwood Underwood WA 98651

[illegible]

# LEAVING? COMMENT FORMS

1A

## Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility Transition Milestones Public Meeting Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet Hood River, February 12, 1998

Name	Organization	Check if Presented	
1. Raymond E. Isaacson	Self	✓	
2. Evelyn E. Isaacson	Self & Son	✓	
3. Laurel Piippo	Cancer Survivor	✓	8.30
4. SON WILLETT	Self	✓	15.50
5. Georgia Talbot	Citizen (Add)	✓	← Sally Newell 38.45
6. Bob Schenter	<del>Self</del> Nuclear Medicine	✓	Research Council
7. Gene Ruppel	Jackrabbit Alliance	✓	49.35
8. ROBERT BURK	SELF	✓	67.35
9. Bob Talbot	Society for Inquire Truth	✓	64.00
10. Gai Oglesbee	Self - Independent Consultant	✓	37.40
11. Brenda Herman	Gorge Resident	✓	68.48
12. Bill Kline	Self	✓	68.49
13. Steve Cuskey	me	✓	42.35
14. Bart Verwerlot	Him	✓	52.10
15. Jim Baldwin	self	✓	60.00
16. Tim Young	Self	✓	68.09
17. Robert Seborer	self	✓	06.43
18. DANIEL LICHTENWALD	SELF	✓	12.13
19. Thomas Lunnar	self	✓	25.35
20. Marilyn Jio	self	✓	35.44

1. B

**Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998**

Name	Organization	Check if Presented
1. Paige Leven		✓
2. Ken Dobbin		✓
3. Harold L. Anderson	Citizen of Richland, WA	✓
4. David Swenberg	NMRC	✓
5. Mike Waite	CITIZEN OF RICHLAND (love)	✓
6. Keith Smith	Marxist Worker	✓
7. Derek Jones	Friends of FFTF	✓
8. GARY TROYER	SELF 36.30	✓
9. CINDI LAWS	Heart of America NW	✓
10. Greg Barker	CRU	✓
11. Elizabeth See		✓
12. Molly See	CRU / Self	✓
13. W.P. MEAD	PSRA / HANFORD ACTION	✓
14. Marybeth Cindler	PRIVATE CITIZEN	✓
15. Deidre Duffy	" "	✓
16. Alan Q. Bencher	" "	
17. Bob Williams	" "	✓
18. Chandra Radian	" "	✓
19. Nina Pochina	Osprey Hill Sanctuary	✓
20. Damon Douglas	Citizen of MTIA, WA	✓

JUDY

12.30

21.30

42.25

57.54

84.50

36.30

52.13

02.12

35.45

47.25

119.00

54.02

04.08

18.09

31.20

139.98

51.92

Georgia Talbot

Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998

Name	Organization	Check if Presented
Sal Newell	self	✓
Catherine Zangar	self	✓
Peggy Knight	Hampden Watch	✓
Cherie Holenstein	✓	✓
Lynn Sims	DONT WASTE OR	✓
Chief Johnny Jackson	Columbia River Tribes	✓
Chuck Baker	Columbia Gorge Audubon Soc.	
Daniel Dancer	Central Coast Alliance	
Jon Olson	self	
Rent Olson	SELF	
John P. Baker	Self - JK Consulting	✓
Bonnie White	Self	
Till Barker	Self	
Steph Ransom	Self	
Rich Harrell	Self	
Dorothy Seyler	self	✓
Nancy Tracy	self	✓
John Pfeiffer	Self	✓
POAK SMITH	SELF	✓
Lucille Wyers	CBLA Gorge Coalition	✓

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Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented	
21	Bill Bries	Hanford Watch	✓	<del>42.44</del>
22	Nancy Metrick	-	✓	<del>54.16</del>
23	<del>Red Winkle</del>	<del>Resolution Services NW</del>		
24	Daniel Dancer	Central Cascades Alliance	✓	51.33
25	David Russell	Citizen	✓	<del>61.03</del>
26	Kathleen Snowling	Citizen	✓	41.53
27	Daniel Belin	Citizen	✓	15.16
28	KORY HORING	CITIZEN	✓	01.43
29	<del>Jeff B. Smith</del>	-		
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Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998

Name	Organization	Check if Presented
<del>41</del> P. Roberstein	<del>CASCADIA TIMES</del>	
<del>42</del> Roderick Allen	<del>McFadden Family Trust</del>	<del>✓</del>
<del>43</del> CHARLES WEBER		✓
<del>44</del> <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del>		
<del>45</del> Doug Merrill	self	✓
<del>46</del> Sandra Brown	self	✓
<del>47</del> Michael Honke	Hanford Action	✓
<del>48</del> Kathy Carlson	mankind	✓
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Tri-Party Agreement Fast Flux Test Facility  
Transition Milestones Public Meeting  
Formal Comment Sign-Up Sheet  
Hood River, February 12, 1998

	Name	Organization	Check if Presented
41	TAS McGEER		✓
42	Kim Searcy	Citizen	
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1201 NE 52nd St., Apt. 9  
Seattle, WA 98105-4340

to Wilson  
for reply  
RECEIVED  
DEC 1 1997

November 22, 1997

Dan Silver  
Deputy Director, Washington Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Silver:

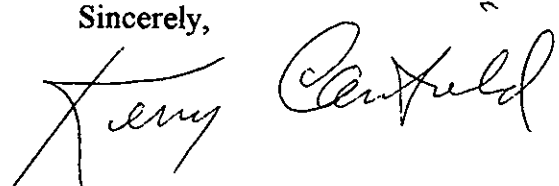
The recently proposed changes in the Tri-Party Agreement are absolutely unacceptable. The plan to restart the Fast Flux Test Facility is not only contrary to Hanford's current clean-up mission but—according to some of the U.S. Department of Energy's own scientists!—dangerous as well.

Changing the Tri-Party Agreement to make the restart easier for the U.S.D.O.E. would send a message to decision-makers in Washington D.C. that our region supports renewed operation of FFTF as well as a reduction in clean-up effort. This is simply not the case, as was amply demonstrated at public hearings held this past April, when over 200 people turned out in Seattle to protest the proposal. Moreover, this antipathy was unequivocally reiterated at the National Equity Dialogue meeting held in Seattle this October.

As for the eventual production of "medical isotopes" touted by the company pushing for FFTF restart (and thus angling to make money off the manufacture of tritium), it may not be completely pie-in-the-sky—but it's close. Moreover, on the evidence of an actual company memo, the medical angle was cooked up mainly as a marketing ploy—to put skeptics in the mood to accept an otherwise indefensible resumption of bomb production activities as well as an inevitable collateral increase in waste contamination levels at Hanford. We don't buy it, and we ask that you not do so either.

Please don't turn a deaf ear to the public's concerns, and by all means make sure that public hearings are held before *any* proposed TPA changes are carried out!

Sincerely,



Kerry Canfield  
keriz@zipcon.net

## ----- Message Contents -----

Monday, February 17, 1998

Dear Mr. Hughes:

After reviewing my testimony it appears that I may have failed to say the magic words, "I oppose removing the FFTF Reactor's Milestones from the TPA." (or similar words to that effect) in the written portion of my comments even though I specified that intent when I spoke for the record.

In any event, please attach this e-mail to the information I gave to you on February 12, 1998 during the hearing in Hood River, Oregon. These sentiments and statements are on behalf of myself, W.P. Mead; PSRA, Public Safety Resources Agency; and Hanford Action of Oregon, and include the following components:

- (a) Oral comments made at Hood River, OR on February 12, 1998;
- (b) Written Cover Letter addressed to you dated February 12, 1998;
- (c) Written Comments dated February 12, 1998; and
- (d) Written Comments dated January 14, 1998.

As I stated during my verbal comments at Hood River, my testimony and comments consisted of 52 pages of documents. Please add this e-mail to the top of that stack and include it with the copy you (hopefully) will send to Sec. Pena's office per my request.

Final request is that you or Sec. Pena's staff notify me of the location where my above-identified comments will be available for public review. I noticed that you have a website, and if you'd rather me to submit my comments already formatted for HTML, then please let me know and I'll do so to enable you to add them to the site under some appropriate title such as "Who's Watching Us" or "Counter Arguments" since I notice that your website appears to be lacking in that type of content.

Thanks for your assistance in this matter. Please let me know if there is any "pass-through funding" available for us to continue our good work.

W. P. Mead  
Director,  
Public Safety Resources Agency  
P. O. Box 724  
Portland, OR 97207-0724

copies: Hanford Action of Oregon (Working Group - HAWG)